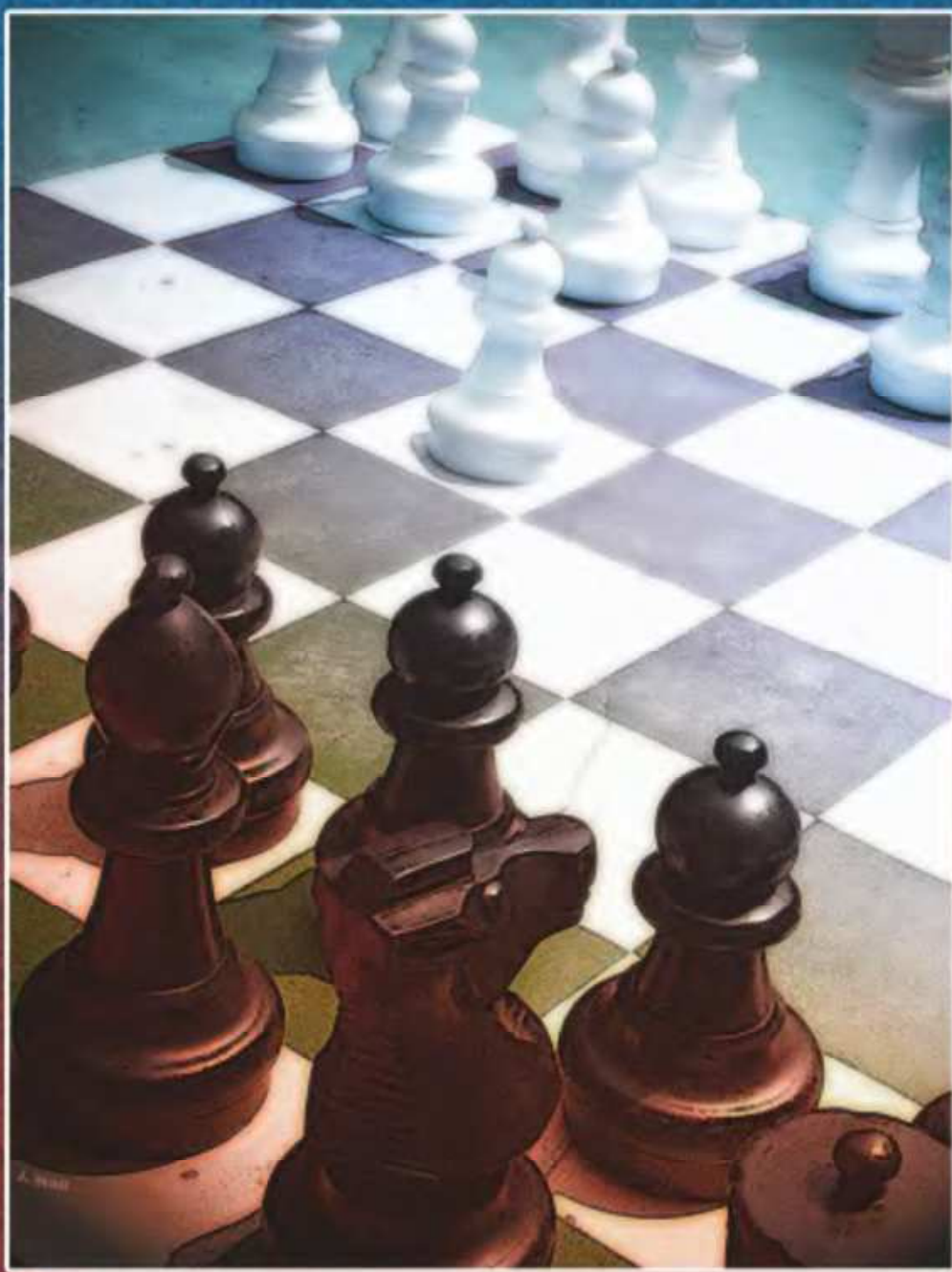


700 OPENING TRAPS



Bill Wall

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INTRODUCTION

Probably the most important part of a chess game for the amateur chess player is the opening. At the amateur level, most games are won or lost in the opening through mistakes or falling in a book trap. It is important to study the openings and know what traps and pitfalls may arise from a particular variation, either to spring it on an opponent or avoid a trap that your opponent is trying to spring on you. Short games illustrate how to take advantage of poor opening strategy or erroneous development by an opponent who may not be familiar with a particular opening.

This collection of chess opening traps is aimed at anyone who enjoys short chess games. Some of the games and traps may be absurd, but they have been played by someone. All the games have been derived from practical play, from amateur to Grandmaster level. Opening traps are useful in blitz play, Internet play, and usually with players who do not study opening theory. And at one time or another, all players, from Grandmaster to novice, have fallen for a chess trap or sprung one on some unsuspecting opponent.

I have arranged the material alphabetically by opening name. Opening names have a kind of history behind them, and it is easier to remember a name than some alphanumeric code such as the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings (ECO) naming convention. Find the opening you like and play over some of the short games and traps. Perhaps a few ideas can come of it and you can try a trap at least once against your favorite opponent.

There are thousands of games that have been played that are 10 moves or less. There are hundreds of thousands of games that are 25 moves or less. These 700 games are short from just a few moves to less than 15 moves. This is just a sampling of some of the chess traps that have been played in the game of chess over the past 500 years. Enjoy.



Quick Rules of Chess

The point of chess is to attack the enemy King and checkmate the King so that it cannot move to any square without also being attacked.

The first thing to know is how to set up a chessboard. The chessboard is made up of an 8 square by 8 square board with alternating light (usually White) and dark (usually Black) squares. The square to each player's right-hand corner must be the light-colored square.



The board is made up of 8 ranks (horizontal squares or lines) and 8 files (vertical squares or rows). The files are indicated by letters. The first file is a, the second file is b, the third file is c, etc. Thus, the files are a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h. The ranks are numbered. The first rank is 1, the second rank is 2, the third rank is 3, etc. Thus, the ranks are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. The lettering and numbering is from the White point of view at all times. Most diagrams will have the White pieces at the bottom and the Black pieces at the top.



From left to right, the pieces are set up on the first and eighth ranks as rook, knight, bishop, queen, king, bishop, knight, rook. The pawns are set up on the second and seventh ranks. The queen must be on a square of its own color.



White always goes first, the Black moves, and so on until the end of the game.

The value of the pieces are 1 point for a pawn, 3 points for a knight, 3.5 points for a bishop, 5 points for a rook, and 9 points for a queen. There is no value given to the king since it never leaves the board.

If the same absolutely identical position occurs 3 times during a game, the game is drawn. If one player can check the enemy King indefinitely without the player being able to prevent it, the game is drawn by perpetual check.

If no pawns have been moved and there have been no capture for at least 50 consecutive moves, the game is drawn.

If the player cannot move any piece at all, including the king, without being checked, the game is drawn as it is stalemate.

Algebraic notation is the official chess notation used around the world.



Chess Notation - Algebraic Notation

The board is made up of ranks (horizontal) and files (vertical). The reference point is always from the White point of view. So if you are White, the ranks are labeled, from left to right, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h. The files are labeled, from bottom to top, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

The pieces are labeled N for knight, B for bishop, R for rook, Q for queen, and K for king. If there is no indication of a piece, then it is assumed the piece is a pawn.

Moving the king's pawn up two squares on the first move would be 1.e4. If Black plays the same move as White, then we have 1.e4 e5. If White moves his king-side knight in front of the bishop for his second move, then we have 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3. If Black plays his queen-side knight in front of his bishop, then we have 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6. This would be the notation for both White or Black.

A capture is usually indicated with a "x" symbol such as Bxc6 (bishop took something that was on the c6 square).

Castling on the king-side is indicated by "O-O" and castling on the queen-side is "O-O-O".

A quick two-move mate would be the following:

Dummy - Wall

1.g4 e5 2.f3 Qh4 mate.

Or the opening for the Ruy Lopez, exchange variation is:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6

It is best to keep record of all your chess games and perhaps enter them into a database, or use your scoresheet to study what you did right or wrong, or prepare an opening or against you opponent the next time you play.



Chess Principles

1. Develop your pieces quickly.
2. Control the center.
3. Put your pieces on squares that give them maximum space.
4. Try to develop your knights towards the center.
5. A knight on the rim is dim.
6. Don't take unnecessary chances.
7. Play aggressive.
8. Calculate forced moves first.
9. Always ask yourself, "Can he put me in check or win a piece?"
10. Have a plan. Every move should have a purpose.
11. Assume your opponent's move is his best move.
12. Ask yourself, "Why did he move there?" after each move.
13. Play for the initiative and controlling the board.
14. If you must lose a piece, get something for it if you can.
15. When behind, exchange pawns. When ahead, exchange pieces.
16. If you are losing, don't give up fighting. Look for counter-play.
17. Don't play unsound moves unless you are losing badly.
18. Don't sacrifice a piece without good reason.
19. If you are in doubt of an opponent's sacrifice, accept it.
20. Attack with more than just one or two pieces.
21. Do not make careless pawn moves. They cannot move back.
22. Do not block in your bishops.
23. Bishops of opposite colors have the greatest chance of drawing.
24. Try not to move the same piece twice or more times in a row.
25. Exchange pieces if it helps your development.
26. Don't bring your queen out early.
27. Castle soon to protect your king and develop your rook.
28. Develop rooks to open files.
29. Put rooks behind passed pawns.
30. Study rook endgames. They are the most common endgames.
31. Don't let your king get caught in the center.
32. Don't castle if it brings your king into greater danger.
33. After castling, keep a good pawn formation around your king.



34. If you only have one bishop, put your pawns on its opposite color.
35. Trade pawns pieces when ahead in material or when under attack.
36. If cramped, free your game by exchanging material.
37. If your opponent is cramped, don't let him get any freeing exchanges.
38. Study openings you are comfortable with.
39. Play over entire games, not just the opening.
40. Blitz chess is helpful in recognizing chess patterns. Play often.
41. Study annotated games and try to guess each move.
42. Stick with just a few openings with White, and a few openings with Black.
43. Record your games and go over them, especially the games you lost.
44. Show your games to higher rated opponents and get feedback from them.
45. Use chess computers and databases to help you study and play more.
46. Everyone blunders. The champions just blunder less often.
47. When it is not your move, look for tactics and combinations.
48. Try to double rooks or double rook and queen on open files.
49. Always ask yourself, "Does my next move overlook something simple?"
50. Don't make your own plans without the exclusion of the opponent's threats.
51. Watch out for captures by retreat of an opponent's piece.
52. Do not focus on one sector of the board. View the whole board.
53. Write down your move first before making that move if it helps.
54. Try to solve chess puzzles with diagrams from books and magazines.
55. It is less likely that an opponent is prepared for off-beat openings.
56. Recognize transposition of moves from main-line play.
57. Watch your time and avoid time trouble.
58. Bishops are worth more than knights except when they are pinned in.
59. A knight works better with a bishop than another knight.
60. It is usually a good idea to trade down into a pawn up endgame.
61. Have confidence in your game.
62. Play in as many rated events as you can.
63. Try not to look at your opponent's rating until after the game.
64. Always play for a win.



Alapin's Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Ne2)



Alapin's Opening is an irregular opening, first analyzed by Carl Mayerhofer (1828-1913) in *Schachzeitung*, 1849. It was later adopted by Semyon Alapin in the late 19th century.

1.e4 e5 2.Ne2 Bc5 3.f4 Qf6 4.c3 Nc6 5.g3 Nh6 6.Bg2 Ng4 [threatening 7... Bf2 mate] 7.Rf1? [White must play 8.d4] 7...Nxe2 8.fxe5?? [White must return the Rook to h1] 8...Qxf1+! 9.Bxf1 Nf3 mate (Manko - Jankowitz, Postal 1900)

1.e4 e5 2.Ne2 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.N1c3 Qa5 [4...Qc6?! 5.Ng3 g6?? 6.Bb5 Wall - Nimoy, Internet 1997] 5.d4 Nc6 6.d5 Nb4 7.Bd2? [better is 7.Ng3] 7...Bf5 8.Rc1 Bxc2 9.Rxc2 Nd3 mate (Unknown - Canal, Simultaneous Exhibition 1935)

1.e4 e5 2.Ne2 Nf6 3.f4 exf4 4.Nxf4 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 [another idea is 5... Qh4+ 6.g3 Qe7] 6.Nd5 Qe5 7.N1c3 c6 8.d4 Qf5 9.Nxe4 [or 9.Nc7+] wins a piece since 9...cxd5 10.Nd6+ wins the Queen (Seibot - Luetz, St. Petersburg 1902)

1.e4 e5 2.Ne2 Nf6 3.f4 exf4 4.d3 Nc5 5.fxe5 Nc6 6.d4? [perhaps 6.Bf4] 6...Qh4+ 7.g3 Qe4 8.Rg1 Nxd4! 9.Qxd4 Qxc2 [threatening 9...Nd3+ and 9...Qxc1] 10.Nf4 Qxc1+ 11.Ke2 Nb3! 12.axb3 Bc5, winning the Rook (Mouillaux - Matisson, French Postal 1985)



Alekhine's Defense (1.e4 Nf6)



The Alekhine's Defense has been analyzed since the early 19th century, but did not become popular until former world chess champion Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946) played and promoted this hypermodern idea in 1921.

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d6 (more common is 2...d5) 3.Bc4 Nxe4 (expecting 4.Nxe4 d5) 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Nxe4 e5 6.Qf3 Kg8?? (Black must play 6...Ke8) 7.Ng5 (threatening 8.Qf7 mate) 7...Qf6 8.Qb3+ and White wins (Krejcik - Gottlieb, Germany 1922)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 (usual us 2.e5 Nd5) 2...d5 3.e5 d4 4.c3 c5?? 5.d3, trapping the Knight. (Iskov - Woge-Nielsen, Copenhagen 1989)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e5 Nfd7 4.e6!? fxe6 5.d4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.dxc5 Nxc5 8.Bb5 g6?? [overlooking White's next move] 9.Qd4, attacking the Rook and Knight and winning a piece (Russ - Zeh, Postal 1974)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.exd5 Nxd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4? [Black should try 6...e5] 7.Bxf7+! Kd7 [7...Kxf7 8.Ng5+ and 9.Qxg4] 8.Qe2 e6 9.h3 Bxf3?? [perhaps 9...Qc7] 10.Qxe6 mate (Quinteros - Goossens, 1978)

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.exd5 Nxd5 4.Bc4 Be6?! 5.Qf3 c6 6.Nge2 g6 7.Nd4 Nxc3? [Black should play 7...Bg7 or 7...Qd7] 8.Nxe6 fxe6 9.Qxc3 Rg8 and now White wins with 10.Bxe6 or 10.Qb3 first, then 11.Bxe6 (Stock - Rades, Germany 1993)



1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Ne4?! (best is 2...Nd5) 3.d3 Nc5 4.d4 Ne4?? 5.Bd3, winning the Knight (Wall - Gaspar1, Internet 1996)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Bc4 Nf4 4.Qf3 Ng6 5.Bxf7 mate (Wall - Challee, Internet 1996)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Bc4 Nb6 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.e6+ dxe6 6.Nf3 N8d7 7.Ng5+ Kf6 8.Qf3+ Ke5 9.Nf7+, winning the Queen (Wall - Hayes, Dayton 1990)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Bc4 Nb4 6.Qb3 e6 7.Qxb4, winning the Knight (Eckley - Knudsen, Iowa 1972)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 d6 7.Bg5 dxe5 8.Qb3 Nd7?? [Black should play 8...f6 or 8...Qd7] 9.Bc4, threatening 10.Bxf7 mate (Mazukewitsch - Kandaurov, Tula 1967)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 (or 4.d4) 3...Nb6 4.d4 Nc6 5.d5 Nxe5 6.c5 Nbc4 7.f4 and White wins a piece (7...Ng6 8.Bxc4) (Borochoy - Fine, Pasadena 1932)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.Bd3 dxe5 6.dxe5 N8d7 7.e6 Nf6 (7...fxe6 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qxg6+ hxxg6 10.Bxf6 mate) 8.exf7+ Kxf7 9.Bg6+! and 10.Qxd8, winning the Queen (Wren - Mayfield, Halifax 1941)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Be6 [usual is 4...Nb6] 5.Nf3 Nb6? [best is 5...Nc6] 6.Bxe6 fxe6 7.Ng5 h6?? [Black should play 7...Nc6] 8.Nxe6 Qd7 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qxg6 mate (Wren - Sprow, Boston 1944)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Ng5+ Kg8 7.Qf3 (threatening 8.Qf7 mate) 7...Qe8 8.e6 h6 9.Qf7! Qxf6 10.exf7 mate (Powers - Dake, Milwaukee 1937)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 Nc6 4.Nf3 f6?! 5.exf6 gxf6? [better is 5...exf6] 6.c4 Nb6 7.d5 Ne5 [if 7...Nb4 8.Ne5 is strong] 8.Nxe5 and if 8...fxe5 9.Qh5 is checkmate (Wawryk - Martel, Internet 1996)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Qd3 dxe5 6.Nxe5 Qf6 7.Qg3 Nd7 8.Bg5 Qf5 9.Bd3, winning the Queen (Wall - Rasmussen, Tacoma 1970)

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.e6!? fxe6 7.Ng5 Qd7 [perhaps better is 7...e5] 8.Bd3 e5?? [Best for Black is 8...g6] 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Bxxg6+ hxxg6 11.Qxxg6+ Kd8 12.Nf7+ Ke8 13.Nxxh8+ wins the Rook (Richter - Jurgschat, Berlin 1952)



Basman's Defense (1.e4 g5)



This unusual defense, also known as the Macho Grob or the Borg, has been analyzed and played by International Master Micael Basman. One needs to be careful of a few traps.

1.e4 g5 2.Nc3 f5?? 3.Qh5 mate (Mayfield - Trinks, Omaha 1959)

1.e4 g5 2.Bc4 Bg7 3.Qh5 e6 4.Nf3 h6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Bxg5 Nxh5 7.Bxd8 Bxb2, winning the rook (Aaron - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 g5 2.d3 h6 3.Ne2 d6 4.Ng3 Nf6 5.Bd2 Bg7 6.Bc3 h5 7.Be2 g4 8.Nd2 Nc6 9.d4 d5 10.e5 Ng8 11.Bb5 f5 12.f4 Qd7 13.Nb3 b6 14.Nxf5 Bf8 15.Qe2 a6?? 16.e6 (Inkeroinen - Heinola, Tampere 1984)

1.e4 g5 2.d4 Bg7 [2...f6?? 3.Qh5 mate, Klip - Bottema, Dieren 1990] 3.Bc4 c6 4.Bc4 c6 5.e5 d5 6.Bd3 c5 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.dxc5 Bxe5 9.Qxd5?? Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qxd5, winning the Queen (Kuuti - Heinola, Scandinavia 1983)

1.e4 g5 2.d4 h6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.h4 gxh4 5.Nf3 d6 6.Nxh4 Nf6 7.Bf4 c6 8.Qd2 Ng4 9.O-O-O Qa5 10.Bc4 b5 11.Nxb5 Qxd2+ 12.Rxd2 cxb5 13.Bd5, winning the rook (Wallwork - Thornton, England 1989)

1.e4 g5 2.d4 h6 3.Bd3 Bg7 4.h4 gxh4 5.Nf3 d5 6.e5 c5 7.c3 Bg4 8.Rxh4 h5 9.dxc5 Nc6 10.e6 Bxe6 11.Ng5 Bg4 12.Qb3 Qc7 13.Qxd5 Nh6 14.Na3 Rd8 15.Nb5 Qb8 16.Qc4 Ne5 (D. MacDonald - Basman, England 1981)

1.e4 g5 2.Nf3 f6 3.d4 c6 4.Ne5 dxe5?? 5.Qh5 mate (Morin - Forscutt, Internet 1994)



Benko Gambit (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5)



This opening has been around since the 1920s, but it took the analysis and play of grandmaster Pal Benko to make it an acceptable gambit. In 1946 the Russians called it the Volga gambit. Black sacrifices a pawn to get a slight lead in development and better pawn structure.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Na3 b4 5.Nc2 d6 6.e3 e6 7.Bd3 exd5 8.Qf3 Bg4 9.Qf4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 d5 11.Qe5+ Be6 12.Bb5+ Nbd7 13.Bc6 Rc8 14.Bxd7+ Qxd7 15.Nf3 h6 16.O-O?? [16.b3 to allow the Queen to escape] 16...Bd6 traps the Queen (J Reyes - Wall, San Antonio 1992)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.b3 bxc4 5.bxc4 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bg6 8.Nf3?? [8.Rb1 should be played] 8...Nxe4 9.Nxe4 Bxa1 win the exchange (Puffy - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nd2 Qa5 5.e4 Nxe4 6.b4 Qxb4 7.Rb1 Qc3 8.Rxb5 Qd4 9.Nxe4 Qxe4+ 10.Be3 g6 11.Nf3 Bg7 [perhaps 11...d6 to provide an escape route for the Queen] 12.Bd3 Qg4 13.h3 Qxg2 14.Rh2, trapping the Queen (Dobosz - Massing, Goch 1991)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nf3 bxc4 5.Nc3 g6 6.e4 d6 7.Bxc4 Bg7 8.e5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 O-O 10.O-O Nbd7 11.Nc6 and White wins the e-pawn after 11...Qe8 12.Re1 (Gokhale - Cadillon, Linares 1997)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nf3 g6 5.g3 Bg7 6.Bg2 d6 7.cxb5 a6 8.bxa6 Qa5+ 9.Nc3 Ne4 10.Qc2? [10.Bd2] 10...Nxc3 11.Bd2 Qa4! If 12.b3 Qe4 and Black wins a piece. (Spasov - Adorjan, Sochi 1977)



1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Bf4 Qa5+ 6.Nd2 bxc4 7.Qc2 Nf6 [other ideas are 7...f5 and 7...c3] 8.e4 d6 9.Bxc4 g6 10.e5 Nh5 11.Be3 dxe5 12.d6 Bb7? [better is 12...Nd7; not 12...exd6 13.Qe4, winning the Rook] 13.Bxf7+! Kf7 [13...Kxf7 14.Qb3+ and 15.Qxb7] 14.Qb3 Bc8 [14...Bxg2 15.Bd5 Bxh1 16.Qb7+ wins] 15.Qd5, winning the rook. (Z. Polgar - E. Ivanov, Varna 1981]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.Nc3 axb5 [or 5...Qa5] 6.Nxb5?! [6.e4 is the book move] 6...Ba6 7.e3? [7.Nc3] 7...Bxb5 wins a piece since 8.Bxb5 Qa5+ and 9...Qxb5 wins the Bishop (Kirchenhoff - Foldi, Dortmund 1986)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.Nc3 axb5 6.e4 b4 [or 6...Qa5] 7.Nb5 Nxe4 [safer is 7...d6] 8.Qe2 Nf6?? [Black must play 8...f5] 9.Nd6 mate (Hultin - Fromme, Sweden 1992)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.Nc3 d6 6.e4 [or 6.bxa6] 6...axb5 [other ideas are 6...Qa5 and 6...Bg4] 7.Bf4 [or 7.Bxb5+] 7...b4 8.Nb5 Nxe4 [or 8...Na6] 9.Qe2 Nf6?? [9...f5 or 9...g5] 10.Nxd6 [if 10...Kd7 11.Bb5+ Nc6 12.Bxc6 mate; 11...Kc7 12.Ne8 mate] (Buggler - Guarisco, 1987)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.e3 axb5 6.Bxb5 Qa5+ 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.Bd2 [or 8.Bc4] 8...Qb6 9.Bc4 [White can also try 9.Qb3] 9...e6 10.Bc1?! [10.Qb3 Qxb3 11.Bxb3 looks better] 10...Qb4 11.Qb3? [11.Bb5 or 11.Bd3 is best] 11...exd5 wins. If the Bishop retreats, then 12...Qxb3 13.axb3 Rxa1 wins a Rook. If 12.Qxb4 cxb4, White has two pieces hanging. (Domanski - Schlesinger, Giessen 1991)

Benoni Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6)



The Benoni Defense is characterized by Black playing c5 in a Queen's Pawn opening. Ben-Oni is Hebrew for "child of my sorrow" and the opening name was coined by Aaron Reinganum in 1825 who analyzed this defense when he was depressed.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nf3 g6 7.Bf4 b6 8.e4 Bg7? [8...a6 to prevent White's next move] 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd6 Bxb5 11.Nxb5 Nxe4 12.Nc7+ Kd7 13.Bf4 g5 14.Nxg5 wins the Rook (Lev - Karp, Tel Aviv 1990)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6 6.e4 Bc7 7.d6 Ba5 8.e5 Ne4 9.Qg4 Nxc3 10.Qxg7 Ne4+ 11.Ke2 win the Rook since 11...Rf8 fails to 12.Bh6 (Van Gisbergen - Lupu, Cappelle 1994)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6 6.e4 g6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Be2 Qe7 9.O-O Nxe4?? [9...Bg7] 10.Qa4+ Nd7 11.Qxe4 wins the Knight (Wall - Campelli, Dayton 1984)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6 6.g3 Bc7 7.d6 Ba5 8.Bg2 O-O 9.Nh3 Nc6 10.O-O Re8 11.Nd5 Re6 12.Nd5 Re6 13.f4 Re8 14.Qd3 g6 15.f5 c4 16.Qxc4 Ne5 17.Qh4 Nh5 18.g4 traps the Knight (Knaak - Hector, Kecskemet 1987)



Benoni Defense, Old Benoni (1.d4 c5 2.d5)



1.d4 c5 2.d5 Na6 3.Nf3 d6 4.e4 Bg4 5.Ne5!? Qa5+ [better is 5...dxe5 6.Qxg4; not 5...Bxd1? 6.Bb5+ Qd7 7.Bxd7+ Kd8 8.Nxf7+] 6.Bd2 dxe5?? 7.Bxa5 Bxd1 8.Bb5 mate (Charosh - Jaffe, New York 1936)

1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.dxe6 fxe6 4.e4 e5?? [4...Nc6] 5.Qh5+ g6 6.Qxe5+ wins the Rook (Wall - Zxcmi, Internet 1996)

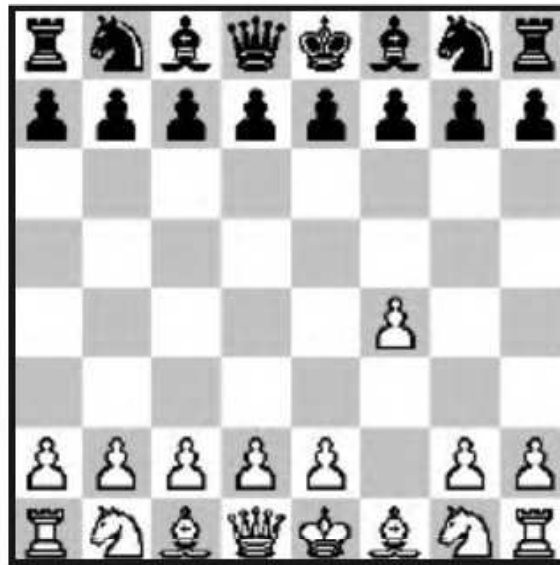
1.d4 c5 2.d5 e6 3.e4 exd5 4.exd5 Bd6 5.Nf3 b6 6.Bd3 Qe7+ 7.Be3 Nf6 8.O-O Nxd5? [8...O-O or 8...Na6] 9.Re1 [threatening 10.Bg5] 9...O-O 10.Bxh7 Kxh7 11.Qxd5 wins a Knight (Wall - Greg, Internet 1996)

1.d4 c5 3.d5 d6 3.e4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 Na6 6.Be2 Nc7 7.O-O Nf6 8.Bf4 O-O 9.h3 b5 10.e5 dxe5 11.Nxe5 b4 12.Nc6 Qd7 13.Nb5? [13.Bxc7] 13... Ncxd5 14.Ne5 Qd8 15.Nc6 Qb6 16.Bf3 Bb7 wins a piece (D. Gurevich - GNUSURE, 1995)

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.e4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 Na6 6.Bc4 Bd7 7.a4 Nc7 8.O-O Rb8 9.Bf4 f6 10.Qe2 Nh6 11.e5 fxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Bxe5 Bxe5 14.Qxe5 Nf7 15.Qg7 Bf5? 16.d6 e6 17.dxc7 Qxc7 18.Rfe1 and if 18...Qe7 19.Bb5+ Kd8 20.Rad1 Kc8 21.Rd7 wins the Knight (Vogel - Suhl, Germany 1993).



Bird's Opening (1.f4)



Bird's opening was adopted by the English master Henry Bird (1830-1908) in 1873 who popularized this opening in the late 19th century.

1.f4 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.Bb5+ Nc6 5.d4?? [White should play 5.Nf3 or 5.Bb2] 5...Qa5+ wins the Bishop (Schenkein - Rindlisbacher, Arosa 1990)

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 e6 4.Bb5 Bd7 5.O-O a6 6.Be2 Bc5 7.d4 Bd6 8.c4 Nge7 9.c5, winning a piece (Wall - Oz, Internet 1996)

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.e3 d4 5.exd4 Nxd4 6.Bc4 Bg4 7.Ne5 Bxd1?? [best may be 7...e6] 8.Bxf7 mate (Wall - Velas, Internet 1997)

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.d3 Bg7 5.Nbd2 O-O 6.h3 c5 7.b3? Ng4 (threatening 8...Bxa1) 8.Ne5 Nxe3, threatening the Queen. If the Queen moves, then 9...Nxc2+ winning the rook (Martinez - Wall, Thailand 1974)

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 h5 3.g3 h4 4.Nxh4 e5 5.fxe5?? Rxh4! And if 6.gxh4 Qxh4 mate (Kourtesis - Kotronias, Athens 1989)

1.f4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Qe2 Bf5 5.Qb5+ Bd7 6.Qxb7 Bc6 7.Bb5 Qd7 8.Bxc6 Qxc6 9.Qc8 mate (Myers - Unknown, Iowa 1985)

1.f4 d5 2.h3 e5 3.g4?? Qh4 mate (Van Kessel - Rensen, 1990)

1.f4 Nf6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.d3 e5 5.fxe5 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Ne3 7.Qa4+ b5 8.Qxb5+ Bd7 9.Qb7 Bc6 wins the Queen since 10.Qxb4 Nc2+ forks King and Queen (Quabeck - Heuacker, Frankfurt 1936)

1.f4 Nf6 2.e3 d5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.c4 Bf5 5.Na3 e6 6.b3 Bc5 7.d4? [best is 7.Nc2] 7...Bb4+ 8.Nd2 Ne4 9.Nb1 Qh4+ wins, since 10.Ke2?? Qf2+ 11.Kd3 Nc5 is mate and 10.g3 Nxg3 wins material (Knudsen - Richardson, Iowa 1973)



Bird's Opening, From's Gambit (1.f4 e5)



1.f4 e5 2.Nf3 [it's probably best to accept the gambit with 2.fxe5] 2...e4 3.Ng5 d5 4.e3 h6 5.Nxf7? [5.Nh3] 5...Kxf7 6.Qh5+ g6 7.Qe5?? Bg7 traps the Queen (Wageneder - Acs, Balatonbereny 1992)

1.f4 e5 2.d3 exf4 3.Bxf4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.Nbd2 Nf6 7.Bg5 Ng4 8.Bh4?? [8.d4 should be played] 8...Qxh4+ 9.Nxh4 Bf2 mate (Barsalou - Wall, Dayton 1980)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.b3?? [4.Nf3 or 4.g3 need to be played to prevent the Queen from coming out to the h4 square] 4...Qh4+ 5.g3 Qxg3+ 6.hxg3 Bxg3 mate (Mogusar - Trippe, St. Louis 1984)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.d4? Qh4+ 5.Kd2 Qxd4+ 6.Ke1 Qh4+ 7.Kd2 Nf6 8.Nf3 Ne4+ 9.Ke3 Qf4+ mates after 10.Kd3 Nf2+ 11.Kc3 Qb4 mate or 10.Kd4 Bc5+ 11.Kc4 Nd2+ 12.Kc3 Qe3 mate (Riemslog - Cameron, Nijmegen 1978)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.e4 [5.h3?? Bg3 mate, Bodvarson - F. Olafsson, Iceland 1947] 5...g5 6.d4 g4 7.Ng5 Nxd4 8.Qxd4?? [8.Bc4 is better] 8...Bg3+ 9.hxg3 Qxd4 wins the Queen (Murtaugh - Wall, Okinawa 1972)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 O-O 6.e4 Re8 7.d3 Ng4 8.Bc2 Nxh2 9.Nxh2? [White should play 9.Bc3] Bg3+ 10.Kf1 [not 10.Kd2?? Qg5 mate] 10...Qd4 and Black threatens mate (Lang - Multhopp, Philadelphia 1995)



1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 Ne4 6.c4 O-O 7.e3 Re8 8.Qc2 Bg4 9.h3?? [White's best is 9.Nbd2] 9...Qh4+ 10.Nxh4 Bg3 mate (K. Evans - Nagley, Internet 1997)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 Ng4 6.Nc3 Bxh2 7.Bg5? [7.Ne4 is a better alternative] 7...Bg3+ 8.Kd2 f6 9.Bh4 Nf2 10.Qc1 Nxh1 wins the Rook (Guischard - Gedult, Paris 1972)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.e3 Qf6 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.Ne4 Bxf3?? [better is 7...Qe6] 8.Nxf6+ wins the Queen (Vargyas - Vegvari, Hungary 1994)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.c3 g4 6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.Nd4 Qh4+ 8.Kd1 g3 9.b3 [or 9.b4 Qxh2, Linder - Joppen, Germany 1950] 9...Qxh2! 10.Rxh2 gxh2 and Queens (Bird - Gunsberg, Hastings 1892)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.d4 g4 6.Ng5 c5 7.h3?? [7.dxc5 is best since 7...Bxc5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nxf7 wins a Rook] 7...Bg3+ 8.Kd2 Qxd4 mate (MacBrayne - Crichton, Scotland 1980)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.e4 g4 6.Nd4 [perhaps 6.e5] 6...Qh4+ 7.Ke2 g3 8.d3 Qxh2 9.Rxh2 gxh2 and Black queens the pawn (Gliksteen - Lawrence, Ohio 1971)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.e4 g4 6.Ng1? Qh4+ 7.Ke2 g3 8.Nc3 Qxh2! 9.Rxh2 gxh2 wins the Queen back (Natapov - Radobarin, USSR 1969)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.h3?? Bg3 mate. (Rossetti - Gedult, Paris 1973)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 h5 5.g3 h4 6.Nxh4?? [6.Rg1 is best] 6...Rxh4 7.gxh4 Qxh4 mate (Warren - Wall, North Carolina 1975)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 Nh6 5.e4 Ng4 6.Qe2 O-O 7.Nc3 f5 8.d3 fxe4 9.dxe4 Nxh2 10.Nxh2?? [White should try 10.Be3] 10...Bg3+, winning the Queen after 11.Qf2 Rxf2 (Lowenthal - Wendeker, Lvov 1934)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.g3 Qg5 5.Nf3?? [White should simply play 5.Bg2] 5...Qxg3+ [or 5...Bxg3+] 6.hxg3 Bxg3 mate (Unknown - Du Mont, France 1802)

1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 Qh4+?! 3.g3 Qe4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qf5 6.e4 Qe6 7.d4 [threatening 8.d5] 7...Qe7 8.Bg5 Qb4 9.a3 Qxb2 10.Na4 traps the Queen (Greco 1620)



Bishop's Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Bc4)



This is one of the oldest openings with a lot of traps and transpositions. Until the middle of the 19th century, most chess authorities thought the best place for the Bishop was on c4, threatening the f7 square with a lot of attacking possibilities. Around 1840, this opening fell out of favor due to improvements in Black's Defense. It still has its traps and played by a few modern Grandmasters such as John Nunn and Sergei Dolmatov.

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 d5 6.exf6 dxc4 7.Qh5 Bf8 [perhaps 7...g5 8.Qxg5 Nd7 is better] 8.Qe5+ Be6 9.fxg7 wins a piece (Ursell - O'Hanlon, Southsea 1949)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.b4!? Bb6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nxe4? [5...d6 may be safer] 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe5+ Ke6 8.Nxe4 Kxe5 9.Bb2+ Kxe4?? [9...Bd4 10.Qh5+ is strong] 10.Qf3 mate (Oskam - Grosjean, Rotterdam 1930)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nh3 Qh4?? [Black should play 4...Nf6] 5.Bg5 traps the Queen (Wall - Stroud, North Carolina 1977)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Qh5 [threatening 4.Qxf7 mate] 3...g6?? [3...Qe7 must be played] 4.Qxe5+ wins the Rook (Meyer - Newcomb, Los Angeles 1952)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.Qh5 Qe7 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Qxe5 Bxf2+ 7.Kxf2?? [White should play 7.Kf1] 7...Ng4+ wins the Queen (Greco 1620)



1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Na5 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Qh5+ g6? [5...Ke6 is best] 6.Qxe5, threatening 7.Qxa5 and 7.Qxh8 and winning a piece (Langeweg - Ten, Netherlands 1983)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Na5 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Qh5+ Ke6 6.Qf5+ Kd6 7.d4 Qf6? [7...Qe8 is preferable] 8.dxe5+ Qxe5 9.Bf4 wins the Queen (Boros - Saller, 1995)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Qf3 [threatenng mate with 4.Qxf7] 3...Nf6 4.Bd5? [4.Ne2 looks better] 4...Nd4 5.Qc3 [or 5.Qd3] 5...c6 6.Bc4?! [6.Bb3] 6...Nxe4 7.Qd3 d5 8.f3 Qh4+ 9.g3 Nxc3 wins since 10.hxc3 Qxh1 wins the rook (Yarray - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Qg4 d5 wins a piece (Asphaltboy - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Qh5 d6?? [3...g6 4.Qf3 Nf6 is best] 4.Qxf7 mate (Brady - Unknown, 1993)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Bg4 5.Qe2 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 b5 7.dxc6 bxc4 8.c7 e4 9.Qxe4 c8=Q mate (Wall - Webcrawler, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb3 dxe4 6.Nxe5?? [6.Ng5 is better] 6...Qa5+, winning the Knight after 7...Qxe5 (Tammela - Kiltti, 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.O-O Be7 7.Re1 Bf6?! [7...f6 or 7...Qd6 may be better] 8.Bb5 Bg4? [8...O-O is better] 9.Nxe5 Bxd1 10.Nxc6+ wins a piece after 10...Kf8 11.Nxd8 and 12.Rxd1 (Malaschitz - Aouriri, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 d5 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.Qxd4?? [White should try 6.Nf3 or 6.Bg5] 6...Bb4+ wins the Queen (Hejny - Jerabek, Czechoslovakia 1993)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.dxe5 d6? [perhaps 4...Qh4 or 4...Nc5] 5.Qd5 [threatening 6.Qxf7 mate] 5...Be6 [another idea is 5...Ng5] 6.Qxb7 Bxc4 7.Qxa8 dxe5?? [Black could resist a little longer with 7...c6] 8.Qxe4 wins (Linke - Huber, Germany 1992)



Blackmar-Diemer Gambit

(1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 or 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.e4)



The original Blackmar Gambit, 1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.f3 was analyzed by Armand Blackmar in 1881. In 1932 Emil Diemer analyzed 1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3.

1.d4 d5 2.e4 Nf6 (better is 2...dxe4) 3.e5 Nd4?? 4.f3 and the Knight is trapped (Wall - Snitch, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 c5 4.Bc4 Qxd4 5.Nd5 Qxc4?? 6.Nc7 mate (Gedult - Deverrier, France 1973)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d5 Ne5 5.Qd4 Ng6 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6! Qxd4 8.cxb7+ Kd8 9.bxa8=Q wins (Wall - Robison, Los Angeles 1969)

1,d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 e5 4.Qe2 Qxd4 5.Qxe4 Bb4 6.Bd2?? [perhaps 6.Qe3] 6...Bxc3 and if 7.Bxc3 or 7.bxc3, 7...Qxe4+ wins the Queen (Plath - Pohl, Postal 1988)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 f5 4.f3 Nc6 5.Bb5 exf3 6.Nxf3 Nh6 7.Bxh6 gxh6 8.Ne5 a6 9.Qh5 mate (Wall - DieHappy, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 c5 5.Bf4 cxd4 6.Nb5 Nd5 7.Bxb8 Ne3? [7...Rxb8 should be played] 8.Nc7+ Qxc7 9.Bxc7 Nxd1 10.Rxd1 and White is up a piece (Gedult - Zweigberg, Paris 1971)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 c6 6.Bc4 Nbd7 7.Ng5 Nd5? [7...e6 is safer] 8.Nxd5 cxd5 9.Nxf7! forking the Queen and Rook. 9...Kxf7 fails to 10.Qh5+ g6 11.Qxd5+ e6 12.Qxc6+ Kg7 13.Qf7 mate (Stapelfeld -



Stock, Postal 1980)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 Bf5 6.Ne5 h5 7.Qf3 Qc8 8.Bc4 e6 9.Bg5 Ng4 [perhaps 9...Bxc2 is safe] 10.Qxf5! and White wins the Bishop since 10...exf5 11.Bxf7 is mate (Leisebein - Burk, Postal 1986)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 Bg4 6.Bf4 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qxd4 8.Qxb7 Qxf4 9.Qc8 mate (Wall - Scal, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.h4 Nbd7? [7...O-O is playable] 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Ke8?? [or 9...Kg8 10.Ne6 Qe8 11.Nxc7] 10.Ne6, trapping the Queen (Purser - Weinberg, Postal 1983)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Nc6 6.Bb5 Qxd4? [Black should play 6...Bd7] 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Qxc6+ wins the Rook (De Vore - Silman, Postal 1968)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qb4 7.O-O-O e5 8.Nb5 Na6 9.a3 Qe4 10.Qf2?? [White should be able to play 10.Nxa7] 10...Ng4 and if 11.Bg5 f6 [not 11...Nxf2 12.Rd8 mate] and Black wins a piece (Van Eijk - Carvalho, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qb4 7.O-O-O e5 8.Nb5 Na6 9.Bg5 e4 10.Bxf6 exf3?? [10...Be6 is better] 11.Rd8 mate (Wall - Millimaci, California 1987)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qb4 7.O-O-O Bg4 8.Nb5 Qa5? [8...Na6 is better] 9.Qxb7 Bxd1?? 10.Qc8 mate (Ewald - Pfaus, Frankfurt 1991)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qb4 7.O-O-O Bg4 8.Nb5 Na6 9.Qxb7 Rc8? [best is 9...Qe4] 10.Nxc7+ Now if 10...Nxc7 11.Qxb4 wins the Queen. If 10...Rxc7 11.Bb5+ (Wall - Corrie, Thailand 1974)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qb4 7.O-O-O Bg4 8.Nb5 Nfd7?? 9.Qxb7 wins (Kennedy - Goldberg, New Jersey 1992)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qb4 7.O-O-O Bg4 8.Nb5 e5 9.Nxc7+ Ke7 10.Qxb7! wins since 10...Qxb7?? 11.Bc5 mate (Bartsch - Jennen)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qe5 7.O-O-O Bg4 8.Qxb7 Qxe3+ 9.Kb1 Bxd1?? [Black should try 9...Qb6 10.Qxa8 Bxd1 11.Nxd1 e5] 10.Qc8 mate (Baitsch - Pahlke, Baden 1956)

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Qxf3 Qxd4 6.Be3 Qg4 7.Qf2 Qb4 8.O-O-O Nc6 [perhaps 8...e5 first] 9.Nb5 Qa5 10.Qe1! wins since 10...Qxe1 11.Nxc7 is mate (Welling - Scheeren, Eindhoven)



Budapest Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5)



This is an aggressive counter-gambit that became popular in Budapest in the late 19th century and early 20th century. There are several traps associated with this defense and gambit.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Bb4+ 4.Nc3 d6?? 5.Qa4+, winning the Bishop (Gueye - Tonci, Sharjah 1985)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Bc5 4.Bg5 [better is 4.Nc3] 4...Ne4! (a queen sacrifice) 5.Bxd8?? Bxf2 mate.(Arnold - Hanauer, Philadelphia 1936)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Bc5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Be3 Bxe3 6.fxe3 Qh4+ 7.g3 Nxe3 8.Nf3 Qh6 and Black wins more material (Wacker - Klein, Germany 1993)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Bc5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Be3?? Bxe3 6.fxe3 Qh4+ 7.g3 Nxe3 and if 8.hxe3 Qxe3 wins the rook (Wacker - Klein, Eisenberg 1993)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Ne4 4.a3 d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.g3 Nxf2 7.Kxf2 Bxg3+ and 8...Qxd1, winning the Queen. (Warren - Selman, Postal 1930 and repeated in Nicoleanu - Georgescu, Bucharest 1960)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Ne4 4.Qc2 Bb4+ 5.Nd2 d5 6.exd6 Bf5 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.a3 Nc5 9.dxc7? [9.Qd1 should be played] 9...Qe7 10.Qd1?? [too late. White had to try 10.Qb5] 10...Nd3 mate (Lagha - Contedini, Leipzig 1960)



1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Ne4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 Qxd5 6.Qxc7 Bb4+ 7.Nd2 Nxd2 8.Qxc8+ Ke7 9.Qc7+ Ke6 and Black threatens mate with 10...Nf3 (Bloemen - Gedult, Paris 1971)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 Ne4 4.f3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Qh4+ 6.g3 Nxg3 7.Bxb4 Ne4 mate (Rabott - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nc3 d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.h3 Nxf2 7.Kxf2 Qh4+ 8.Kf3?? [8.Ke3 is best] 8...Qg3+ 9.Ke4 Bf5+! 10.Kxf5 Qg6 mate (Fomin - Fedossov, USSR 1988)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Qd4 d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.Qxg7?? Be5 trapping the Queen (Takacz - Krejcik, Vienna 1920)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Qd4 d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.c5 Nc6 7.Qd1 Nxf2! and if 8.Kxf2 Bg3+ and 9...Qxd1, winning the Queen (Rajacajn - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.e4 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bxf2+ 7.Ke2? [7...Kd2 is more accurate] Nd4+ 8.Qxd4 Bxd4 9.Bxd8 Bxb2 wins the Rook (Zak - Mieses, London 1944)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bf4 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Qe7 7.g3 Ncxe5 8.Ng5 h6 9.Ne4 f5 10.Nd2?? Nd3 mate (Heuston - Wall, Fremont, CA 1991)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bf4 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.a3 Ngxe5 8.axb4?? Nd3 mate 0-1 (Detellis - Wall, Concord, CA 1986)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 d6 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.h3?? [6.Nc3 is normal] 6...Nxf2 7.Kxf2 Bg3+ 8.Kxg3 Qxd1 wins the Queen (Preston - Wall, Thailand 1973)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.a3 Ncxe5 8.axb4?? [8.Nxe5 or 8.e3] 8...Nd3 mate (Subbraman - Munteanu, 1991)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.h3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.a3?? [9.e3 is better] 9...Nd3 mate (Flament - Gedult, Paris 1970)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Bf4 g5 5.Bd2 Nxe5 6.e3 d6 7.Be2 Be6 8.Bc3 Nbc6 9.f4 gxf4 10.exf4 wins a piece (Hertneck - Wunderer, Germany 1990)



Caro-Kann Defense (1.e4 c6)



In 1886 Horatio Caro and Marcus Kann analyzed and wrote extensively on this defense. It did not become popular until the 1920s when Capablanca started playing it. There are several traps associated with this opening.

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.f3 d4 4.Na4 e6 5.Ne2?? b5 traps the Knight (Hardrock - Wall, Internet 1997)

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.Neg5 e6 7.Qe2 Nb6 [perhaps 7...Nd5 is safest] 8.Ne5 Qd4 9.Nexf7 Rg8 10.Bxe6 or 10.Nxe6 wins two Pawns [Wisniewski - Halasiewicz, Postal 1993]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Qe2 Ngf6?? 6.Nd6 mate (Alekhine - Unknown, Palma de Mallorca 1935 and repeated in Nishimura - Marko, Lucerne 1982) - this is perhaps the most played trap in the Caro Kann

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Bg4 [5...Nbd7?? 6.Nd6 mate, Nisimura - Markovic, Lucerne 1982] 6.g3 Nbd7?? 7.Nd6 mate (La Rota - Sarwer, Canada 1988)

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bh5 5.Be2 Na6? [simply 5...e6] 6.exd5 cxd5?? [6...Nb4 is a little better] 7.Bb5+ wins the Queen [Podhraski - Zavec, Bled 1996]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Qf3 d4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.e5 dxc3 6.exf6 g6 7.dxc3 Nd7?? [7...cxd2+ 8.Bxd2 gxf6 is better] 8.Bxf7+! Kxf7 9.fxe7+ Kxe7 10.Bg5+ wins



the Queen (Dainauskas - Blecher, Siauliai 1980)

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Qf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 e5 5.Bc4 Nf6 [5...f6] 6.Ng5 Bg4 7.Qb3, threatening 8.Nxf7 and 8.Qxb7 (Taylor - Angermann, Postal 1986)

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Qa4+ Qd7?? 6.Bb5 winning the Queen (Dubois - Coudray, Paris 1989)

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Qc7 7.Qb3? [White should play 7.d3] 7...b5! 8.d6 (if 8.Bxb5 Qxc1+) 8...Qxc4 wins the Bishop (Spiel - Bramkamp, Dortmund 1991)

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 g6 4.f4 Nh6 5.Ngf3 Ng4 6.Be2?? [perhaps 6.c3 or 6.Qe2] 6...Ne3, winning the Queen (Metzger - Brandon, USA 1989)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Bc4 Bf5 5.f3 exf3 6.Nxf3 e6 7.O-O Nf6 8.Ne5 h6? [Black can play 8...Bxc2 and if 9.Qxc2 Qxd4+ and 10...Qxe5] 9.Rxf5! exf5 10.Nxf7 and 11.Nxh8 or 11.Qe2+ (Buerki - Plauth, San Bernardino 1992)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Qe2 Nd7?? 6.Nd6 mate (Wall-Ferens, Dayton 1981)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.e6 fxe6 6.Qh5+ g6 7.Qxg6+ (or 7.Bxg6+) 7...hxg6 8.Bxg6 mate (Damant - Unknown, London 1932)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Qe2 b5?? 7.Nd6 mate (Smith - Tichenor, South Carolina 1982)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Ng5 h6 6.Ne6 Qa5+ 7.Bd2 Qb6 8.Bd3 fxe6 9.Qh5+ Kd8 10.Ba5 wins the Queen (Nunn - Georgiev, Linares 1988)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Bc4 Qe7+ 7.Ne2?? Qb4+ and 8...Qxc4 (Sira - Konopkova, Russia 1994)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Bc4 Qe7+ 7.Qe2 Be6 8.Be3 Qb4+ wins the Bishop (Birr - Mammen, Eppingen 1988)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qd3 e5 6.dxe5 Qa5+ 7.Bd2 Qxe5 8.O-O-O Nxe4 9.Qd8+! Kxd8 10.Bg5+ Kc7 (10...Ke8 11.Rd8 mate) 11.Bd8 mate (Reti - Tartakower, Vienna 1910)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 dxc4 7.Bg5 dxc4 8.Qxd4 Nxd4 9.O-O-O Nc6?? [9...e5 is best] 10.Nb5 threatening 11.Nc7 mate (Janko - Lumsdon, Disentis 1991)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.Bf4 Qb6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nb5 Nc6? [7...Na6 is stronger] 8.Bc7 wins the Queen after 8...Qa6 9.Nd6+ Bxd6 10.Qxa6 (Pickett - Veatch, Las Vegas 1986)



Center Counter Defense (1.e4 d5)



The Center Counter Defense, also known as the Scandinavian Defense because of the analysis of this defense by Scandinavian players in the 19th century, usually sees an early Queen development by Black. Several traps arise from this defense.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Nc6 7.Bb5 Qb6 8.Nd5 Qa5 9.b4 Qxb5 10.Nc7+, winning the Queen after 11.Nxb5 (Wiesel - Weigel, Postal 1923)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bd2 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7? [Black needs to find an escape route with 6...Qb4] 7.Nd5 Nb4 [7...Qxb5 fails to 8.Nxc7+ forking King and Queen] 8.Bxb4 traps the Queen (Abrahams - Crothers, Oxford 1925)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6?! 4.d4 a6 5.Nge2 b5 6.Bf4 Qb6? [allows the Knight to attack. Better is 6...Qd8 or 6...Qd8] 7.Nd5, threatening 8.Nxc7+, winning the Rook (Korneev - Hettler, 1993)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.Bc4 e5 5.Qh5 g6 6.Qxe5+ Ne7 7.Qxh8, winning the rook (Wall - Puke, Internet 1996)



1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4? [better is 5...Nc6] 6.Ne5! Bh5?? [Black had to play 6...Be6. Not 6...Bxd1?? 7.Bxf7 mate] 7.Qxh5!, and if 7...Nxb5 8.Bxf7 mate (Balode - Sondore, Riga 1965)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd8 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.d5 Ne5? [perhaps 6...Nb4 or 6...Nb8] 7.Nxe5 Bxd1 8.Bb5+ wins (Mieses - Akvist, Europe 1895)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qe5+?! 4.Be2 Bf5 5.Nf3 Qc5 6.d4 Qb6 7.O-O Nc6 8.Nd5 Qb5?? 9.Nxc7+ winning the Queen (Wall - LonelyMonkey, Internet 1996)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qe5+?! 4.Be2 Bg4 5.f3 Bh5 6.Nb5 e6?? [6...Na6 should be played] 7.d4, forking King and Rook with 8.Nxc7 after the Queen moves away (Wall - Lovegren, Dayton 1980)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qe6+ 4.Be2 Nf6 5.Nb5 (threatening 6.Nxc7) 5...Nd5 6.c4 Qg6 7.cxd5 Qxg2 8.Bf3 Qg6 9.Nxc7+ wins (Wall - R. Adams, San Antonio 1996)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Be2 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qa5 6.d4 e5 7.Nxe5 Bxe2 8.Nxc6?? [8.Qxe2 was called for] 8...Qxc3+! 9.bxc3 Bxd1 wins a piece (Zabrzewski - Angelov, Budapest 1967)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 e6?! 3.dxe6 Bxe6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bd6 6.d5 Nxd5 7.Nxd5 Bxd5 8.Qxd5?? Bb4+, winning the Queen after 9...Qxd5 (Cagle - Wall, North Carolina 1976)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.Qf3 Qc4?? [perhaps 7...e6 instead] 8.Qxb7 Qc6 9.Qc8 mate (Vann - Clemow, Plymouth 1989)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nxd5 4.Bc4 Nxc3 5.Qf3 (threatening 6.Qxf7+) 5...e6 6.Qxc3 Nc6 7.Nf3 h6 8.Bb5, winning the Knight (Ourmet - Cierniak, Paris 1989)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.dxe6 Bxe6 5.d4 Bb4 6.Nf3 O-O 7.Bd2 Re8 8.Ng5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Bg4+ 10.Be2 Rxe2+ wins the Queen (Xfile - Wall, Internet 1997)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb4 5.Qa4+ N8c6 6.a3 Na6 7.d5 Nc5 8.Qb5 e6 9.dxc6 b6 10.Ke2 a5, threatening 11...Ba6 and trapping the Queen (Kelics - Simic, Postal 1792)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Qxd5? [4...Bxe2 is best] 5.Bxg4 Qe4+ 6.Be2 Qxg2 7.Bf3 traps the Queen (Lapshun - Gouret, New York 1992)

1.e4 d5 2.Nf3 (usual is 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3) 2...dxe4 3.Ng5 Qd5 4.d3 exd3 5.Bxd3 Qxg2?? 6.Be4, trapping the Queen (Krejciak - Takacs, Vienna 1920)



Center Game (1.e4 e5 2.d4)



This opening is one of the oldest openings in chess. White tries to break up Black's central strongpoint at the expense of bringing out the Queen early or giving up a pawn.

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 [the Danish Gambit] dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.Bf4 Nxe4 7.Nd5 Qd8 8.Nxc7+ Ke7 9.Qd5 leads to mate (Wall - Duke, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 cxb2 5.Bxb2 d6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.O-O Nbd7 8.e5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5?? [9...Be6 is a little better] 10.Bxf7+ Ke7 [10...Kxf7 11.Qxd8 wins the Queen] 11.Ba3+, now White wins the Queen after 11...Kxf7 12.Qxd8 (Gibbs - Davie, England 1916)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Bc4 cxb2 5.Bxb2 Qg5 6.Nf3 Qxg2 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Rg1 Qh3 9.Ng5+ forking King and Queen (Wall - Van Guilder, Guam 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be6 6.e5 h6 [better is 6...Nc6] 7.exf6 hxg5 8.fxg7 wins a piece (Kirby - Smith, Sunnyvale, CA 1985)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.cxd4 Nf6 8.Nc3 Bb4?? [the Queen must move] 9.Qa4+, winning the Bishop (Smith - Cohn, Hanover 1902)



1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Qe2 Qe7 5.e5 d5? [Black should retreat with 5...Ng8] 6.exf6 Qxe2+ 7.Bxe2 (Regan - Kichinski, Sunnyvale 1988)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.e5 d5 5.Bb3 Ne4 6.Ne2 Bc5 7.f3 Qh4+ 8.g3 d3 9.gxh4?? [9.Qxd3 is best] 9...Bf2+ 10.Kf1 Bh3 mate (Stevenson - Mariotti, Nottingham)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qa4 Qe7 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bg5 d5 7.O-O-O dxe4 8.Nxe4 Qxe4 9.Rd8+! Kxd8 10.Qxe4, wins the Queen (Wall - Davidson, Hickory, NC 1975)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qa4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d5 6.Bg5 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Qe7 8.O-O-O Qxe4 [safer is 8...Bd7] 9.Rd8+! Kxd8 10.Qxe4 wins the Queen (Bronstein - Unknown, Sochi 1950)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3 (4.Qc3?? Bb4 wins the Queen, Memo - Wall, Internet 1996) Nf6 5.Bc4 Ne5 6.Bb3 Bb4+ 7.c3 Bc5 8.Qg3 Bxf2+! 9.Kxf2 Nxe4+ winning the Queen (Unknown - Leonhardt, Leipzig 1903)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Qf6 4.Qe3 Nh6 5.Nc3 Ng4 6.Nd5 Qc6? [6...Qd8 is better] 7.Qf4 [threatening 8.Nxc7+] 7...d6 8.Bb5 wins the Queen since 8...Qxb5 9.Nxc7 forks Queen and King (Barnett - Eastwood, Postal 1949)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 exd4 4.Qxd4 dxe4 5.Nd5 c6 6.Qe5+ Kd7 7.Qf5+ Kd6?? [7...Ke8 looks like the only good move] 8.Bf4+ Kc5 9.b4+ Kd4 10.c3 mate (Sas - Unknown, Sambor 1904)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 d6 3.c3 Bd7 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Qb3 Qe7 6.Qxb7 Bc6 7.Qc8+ Qd8 8.Bxf7+! Ke7 9.Qe6 mate (Steinitz - Unknown, New York 1890)

1.e4 e5 2.d4 f6? (Black should just play 2...exd4) 3.dxe5 fxe5 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Qxe5+ Ne7 6.Qxh8, winning the rook. (Wall - Kay, Internet 1996)



Dunst Opening (1.Nc3)



This Queen's Knight Opening was analyzed and played by American master Ted Dunst (1907-1985). It transposes into many other openings.

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4 3.Nd5 f5 4.Bc4 fxe4 5.Qh5+ g6 6.Qe5 c6 7.Nc7+ Kd7 8.Be6 mate (Harding - Unknown, London 1974)

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 d4 3.Nce2 c5 4.Ng3 e5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bc4 f6? 7.Nxe5! Bxd1?? 8.Bf7+ Ke7 9.Nf5 mate (Moody - Bender, Postal 1977)

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.f3 Bf5 5.g4 Bg6 6.g5 exf3 7.Qxf3 Qd4 8.Qxb7 Ng4 9.Qxa8?? [White overlooks 9.Qc8+! Qd8 10.Bb5+] Qf2+ 10.Kd1 Ne3+ 11.dxe3 Bxc2 mate (Aasum - Frenzel, Germany 1989)

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nxe4 Nd7 4.Bc4 Ngf6 5.Ng5 e6 6.Qe2 Be7 [perhaps 6...Nb6] 7.Nxf7 Kxf7 8.Qxe6+ and White is up several pawns and a strong attack (Myers - Savon, New York 1959)

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nxe4 e5 4.Bc4 Be7 5.Qh5 Nh6 6.d3 and threatening 7.Bxh6 and 8.Qxf7 (Van Geet - Sande, Postal 1982)

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nxe4 e5 4.Bc4 Bf5 5.Qf3 Qd7 6.Ng5 Nc6 7.Bxf7+ Kd8 8.Be6 Bxe6 9.Qxf8+ and if 9...Qe8 10.Nxe6+ wins a piece (Goldberg - Lewin, South Africa 1982)

1.Nc3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nxe4 e5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 Be7 [safer is 6...Nc6] 7.Bc4 [threatening 8.Qxf7] 7...Nh6 8.d3 [threatening 9.Bxh6 gxh6 10.Qxf7] 8...g5 9.Qh5 and Black loses the Knight. If 9...Ng8 10.Qxf7+ Kd7 11.Nc5+ is strong (Myers - Meifert, Racine 1955)



Dutch Defense (1.d4 f5)



This defense was first advocated by the Dutch player Elias Stein in 1789 in his book, *Nouvel Essai Sur le Jeu des Eschecs*. Many traps can arise from this defense.

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Bb5 c6 6.Ba4 Ne4 7.Qe2 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Bxc3+, winning the rook (MacKid - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 d5 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e3 c6 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.a3 Qxb2?? [7...Bd6 is more natural] 8.Na4 traps the Queen (Vaiser - Mutzner, Mendrisio 1988)

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e4 Bb4 6.Qh5+ Kf8 7.Bc4 Qe7 8.Ne2 fxe4 9.O-O-O c6 10.Nf4, threatening 11.Ng6 and forking King, Queen, and Rook (Wall - McKone, Palo Alto 1989)

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.h4 Bg7 5.h5 Nxh5 6.e4 e6 7.exf5 exf5 8.Rxh5 gxh5 9.Qxh5+ Kf8 10.Nd5 h6 11.Qxf5+ Kg8 12.Qe4 Kf7? [12...Nc6 is playable] 13.Be2 [or 13.Qf4+ and 14.Nxc7, winning the Rook] 13...Rf8 14.Bxh6 and if 14...Bxh6 15.Qh7+ leads to mate (Piket - Klip, Netherlands 1993)

1.d4 f5 2.Be3?! Nf6 3.Qd3 e6 4.Bg5 c5 5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.g3 Qb6 7.Be3 Qxb2 8.Qc3?? Bb4 wins the Queen (Hamlet - Wall, Internet 1997)



1.d4 f5 2.e4 (the Staunton Gambit) 2...d6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 b6? 5.exf5 Bxf5 6.Qf3 (threatening 7.Qxa8 and winning the rook) 6...c6 7.Qxf5, winning the Bishop. (Jorgensen - Jensen, Denmark 1988)

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 e5 4.Qh5+ Qe7 5.Qxe5+ Qe7 6.Qxh8, wins the Rook (Wall - McKone, Palo Alto 1989)

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.g4 h6 5.f4 d5 6.Be2 a6 7.g5 Nfd7 8.Bh5+ g6 9.Bxg6 mate (Wall - Macho, Internet 1996)

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.Bc4 Nc6?? [7...c6 provides an escape route for the King] 8.Qf7+ Kd6 9.Nxe4 mate (Krongraf - Monsehr, Postal 1989)

1.d4 f5 2.e4 g6? 3.exf5 gxf5?? 4.Qh5 mate (Welling - Braamkolk, Netherlands)

1.d4 f5 2.g4 fxg4 3.h3 Nf6 4.hxg4 Nxc4 5.Qd3 Nf6?? [Black's best is 5...g6] 6.Rxh7, threatening the Rook or mate with 7.Qg6 (Zilbermints - Ashley, New York 1991)

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e4 dxe4 5.Bc4 g6 6.f3 Bg7 7.fxe4 Bxd4 8.Qd2 Bf6?? [better is 8...Nf6] 9.Bf7+ wins the Queen after 9...Kxf7 10.Qxd8 (Carlson - Jones, England 1995)

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.Nc3 Nh6 4.e4 Nf7 5.h4 Nxc5 6.hxg5 d6 7.exf5 Bxf5 8.g4 Bd7 [perhaps 8...Bc8 is better] 9.Bd3 Bg7 10.Rxh7 wins a pawn since 10...Rxh7?? 11.Bxg6+ would win a rook. Black should now play 10...O-O (Gazarek - Krumpak, Ljubljana 1995)

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bf4 g5 4.Bg3 f4 5.e3 h5 (5...fxg3?? Qh5 mate) 6.Bd3 (threatening 7.Bg6 mate) 6...Rh6 7.Qxh5+! Rxh5 8.Bg6 mate (Teed - Delmar, New York 1896)



English Opening (1.c4)



This opening was mentioned in the 15th century, but rarely tried. Then in 1843 the English master Howard Staunton played it six times in his match against Saint-Amant. It is now a very common opening with lots of traps.

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 e5 3.e3 Ne7 4.Nb5 d5 5.Qa4 Bd7?? [Black should play 5... Nbc6] 6.Nd6 mate (Corneliussen - Jensen, Denmark 1991)

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Ne7 4.Ne4 f5?? 5.Nd6 mate. (Fraenkell - Unknown, Helsinki 1934)

1.c4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 (hoping to win back the pawn) 3...e5 4.Nxe5?? Qa5+ and Black resigned since White wins the Knight after 5...Qxe5. (Combe - Hasenfuss, Folkestone 1933)

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.b3 Bg7 6.Bb2?? Nxd4! 7.Bxd4 Qa5+ and Black wins a piece since 8.Nc3 fails to 8...Qxc3+ 9.Bxc3 Bxc3 10.Qd2 Bxd2+ (Panzalovic - Dancevski, 1990)

1.c4 d5 2.cxd5 Nf6 3.e4 Nxe4?? 4.Qa4+ and 5.Qxe4 (Lehmann - Schulz, Berlin 1950)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 f5 4.d4 e4 5.Bg5 Nf6 6.d5 exf3 7.dxc6 fxg2 8.cxd7+? [8.Bxg2 should be played] 8...Nxd7! wins a piece since 9.Bxd8 gxh1=(Q) wins the Rook and gets the Queen back (Doroshkievich - Tukmakov, Riga 1970)



1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 h6 6.Nxd4 Bg7? [perhaps 6...Nf6 first] 7.Bf4 d6 8.Nb5 Bxb2 9.Nbxc7+ wins the exchange (Petek - Ptacnikova, Czechoslovakia 1995)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bb4 5.Nd5 Nxd5 6.cxd5 Nd4? [best is 6...Ne7] 7.e3 Nf5 8.Qg4, threatening Knight and Bishop (Kaprinay - H Hubner, 1926 and repeated in Vaulin - Pasztor, Hungary 1994)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d3 b6 4.b3 Bb7 5.Bb2 Bc5 6.Nd5 Nxd5 7.cxd5 Bxd5 8.Bxc5 Bb4+ 9.Qd2 Bxd2, wins the Queen (Mason - Wall, Palo Alto 1990)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Ne4 8.Bxd8 Nxc3 9.Nxc6 Nxd1+ 10.Nxb4, wins a piece (Muller - Duchamp, The Hague 1928)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Nd5 Nxd5 6.cxd5 e4 7.dxc6 exf3 8.Qb3 wins a piece (Petrosian - Ree, Wijk aan Zee 1971)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e4 4.Ng5 Be7?! [4...b5 has been played] 5.Nxe4 d5? [safest is 5...O-O] 6.Nxf6+ Bxf6 7.Nxd5 O-O 8.e3 b5? [8...Bg5] 9.Qf3 Bb7?? 10.Nxf6+ wins the Bishop (Wall - Xfile, Internet 1997)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.d3 d5 5.Bg5 d4 6.Ne4 Nxe4! wins after 7.Bxd8 Bb4+ 8.Qd2 Bxd2 mate (Molero - Lootsma, Stockholm 1980)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Bg2 d6 5.e3 Nc6 6.Nge2 Be6 7.Nd5 Nb4 8.Nxb4 and White wins a piece. If 8...Bxb4, then 9.Qa4+ and 10.Qxb4 (Ozols - Reides, Stockholm 1937)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bb4 5.Nd5 Nxd5 6.cxd5 Nd4 7.e3 Nf5 8.Qg4 wins a piece (Kaprinay - Hubner, Postal 1926)

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.Qb3 (threatening 4.Qxb7) 3...Qc8 4.h3 Bh5?? (Black should take the Knight or back up along the other diagonal) 5.Qb5+ and White wins the Bishop after 6.Qxh5 (Schmitt - Pribyl, Altenssteig 1990)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Bf5 4.Qb3 Nc6 5.cxd5 Nxd4 6.Qa4+ wins a piece (Knopp - Koebele, 1992)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 Nxc3 5.bxc3 e6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.Rb1 O-O 8.Bxb7? [8.Rxb7 should have been played] 8...Bxb7 9.Rxb7 Qd5 wins a Rook (Brooks - Wall, Thailand 1973)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 Nc6 4.Nge2 b6 5.g3 Ne5 6.d4?? Nf3 mate (Mantia - Trogon, Dayton 1979)

1.c4 Nf6 2.f4?! e6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 O-O 5.b3 Ng4 6.h3?? [6.d4 is best] 6... Bf2+ 7.Kd2 Ne3 wins the Queen (Rodman - Wall, Internet 1996)



Englund Gambit (1.d4 e5)



This gambit, also known as the Charlick Gambit, was analyzed by the Swedish player Fritz Englund (1871-1933) and Henry Charlick (1845-1916).

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd6 Bxd6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Bf5 7.Nd5 Bb4+ 8.Nxb4 Nxb4 9.Nd4?? [9.Rc1] 9...Qxd4 wins a piece since 10.Qxd4 Nxc2+ forks King and Queen (L. Buntin - Bloodgood, Postal 1976)

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.c3 Nxe5 5.Bd2?? [5.Nxe5 Qxe5 6.e3 is better] 5...Nd3 mate (Bronnum - San Marco, Bagneux 1985)

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Nc3 Nxe5 5.Nxe5 Qxe5 6.Nd5 Qd6?? [6...Ne7 is playable] 7.Bf4 and after the Queen moves, 8.Nxc7+ forking King and Rook (Kirste - Plath, Postal 1987)

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Nbd2 Nxe5 5.c3?? [5.Nxe5 Qxe5 6.Nf3 is correct] 5...Nd3 mate (Bohmann - Ulfheden, Sweden 1938)

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Qd5 h6 5.Nc3 g5 6.Nb5 Qd8 7.Bd2 Nge7? [7...Bg7 is better] 8.Qd6! Bg7 [8...cxd6?? 9.Nxd6 mate] 9.Nxc7+ wins the Rook (Bouttier - Charrier, France 1792)

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 Qe7 4.Bf4 Qb4+ 5.Bd2 [5.Qd2?? Qxb2 wins the Rook since 6.Qc3 Bb4! Would win the Queen, Schatzle - Batchis, New Jersey 1987] 5...Qxb2 6.Bc3? [6.Nc3 had to be played] 6...Bb4! 7.Qd2 Bxc3 8.Qxc3?? Qc1 mate (Silbermann - Honich, Czernowitz 1930)

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 f6 4.Bf4 fxe5 5.Nxe5 Qf6 6.Nxc6 dxc6 7.Bc1 Bg4 8.h3?! [perhaps 8.c3 or 8.Qd2] 8...Rd8 9.Nd2?? [9.Qxd8+ Qxd8 10.hxg4 should be played] 9...Bc5 threatening 10...Qxf2 mate since 10.f3 leads to mate after 10...Qh4+ 11.g3 Qxg3 (Roughman - Gedult, France 1968)



Evans Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4)



This gambit is named after Captain W. D. Evans who invented it in the 1820s. Some of the finest attacking games arise from this opening.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.d4 exd4 7.cxd4 Bb6 8.d5?! [8. O-O or 8.Bg5 are better choices] 8...Qf6 [threatening 9...Qxa1] 9.e5 Nxe5 10.Nxe5?? [Black had to play 10.Qe2] 10...Qxf2 mate (D. Marshall - Marvin, Internet 1995)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.O-O Nf6 7.d4 Bb6 8.dxe5 Nxe4?? [8...Ng4 is better] 9.Qd5 threatens the Knight and mate (Wall - Shameson, Mountain View, CA 1986)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Bc5 6.O-O Nf6 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.e5 Na5? [perhaps 9...Ne4 is best] 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.Qe1+ wins the Knight (Wall - TrickyKnight, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 Na5 7.Be2 Nf6?! [7...exd4 is better] 8.dxe5 Nxe4? [perhaps Black could resist better with 8...Ng8] 9.Qa4 Black loses a Knight, but has some compensation after 9...Nxf2 10.Kxf2 Nc6 (Kiltti - Meskanen, Helsinki 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Kf8 8.Bxf7 g6 [perhaps 8...Na5] 9.Bxg8 Rxg8 10.Bh6+ wins the Rook as White threatens 11.Qxg8 (Gurack - Koerner, Cattolica 1993)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 5.c3 Be7 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Nh6? 8.Bxh6 gxh6 9.Bxf7+ Kf8 10.Bh5 threatening 11.Qf7 mate. After 10...d5 White can play 11.exd5 or 11.Qxd5 (Fischer - Chaney, Houston simultaneous 1964)



Four Knights Game (1.e5 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6)



The Four Knights Game has been played since the late 16th century. The sequence of the Knights being developed can vary.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe4 Nxf3+? 8.Qxf3+ Kg8?? 9.Ng5 threatens mate. If 9...Qf6 10.Qd5+ wins the Queen (Jowett - McDonald, London 1885)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Nxe5 Qe7 6.f4 Nxb5 7.Nxb5 d6 8.Nd3?? [White had to play 8.Nf3] 8...Bg4 wins the Queen (Unknown - Van Mil, Eindhoven, 1973)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 Bb4 5.d5 Ne7 6.Nxe5 Nxe4 7.Qd4 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nf6 9.Bg5 Ng6? 10.Ng4 and White will eventually win more material (Tarrasch - Simonson, Berlin 1887)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Bc5 6.Be3 Nxd4 7.Bxd4 Qe7 8.Be2 O-O 9.e5 Ne8?? [9...Bxd4, then 10...Ne8] 10.Nd5 winning a piece after the Queen moves (Colias - Ronco, Illinois 1987)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 d5 6.Bb5 Qd6? [safer is 6...Bd7] 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Nxc6 [or 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Nxc6 as in Openheim - Unknown, Germany 1921] 8...bxc6 9.Qxd5! wins the Knight (Valenta - Gotz, Czechoslovakia 1994)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5 Nxd5 6.exd5 Nb4 7.Bc4 Qe7+ 8.Kd2 g6 9.Re1?? Bh6+ (Cavallo - Barreras, Postal 1983)



French Defense (1.e4 e6)



This is one of the oldest openings, but did not get its name until 1834 when a Paris team, using this defense successfully, defeated London in a correspondence match. There are many traps associated with this opening.

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ne2 e5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.c4 Nb4 7.cxd5?? [7.Nb3] 7...Nd3 mate (Grossner - Budrich, East Germany 1949)

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.g3 dxe4 5.dxe4 Bc5 6.Ngf3? [6.Bg2 or 6.Bd3 is better] 6...Ng4 7.Qe2 Bxf2+ 8.Kd1 Ne3+ and White must give up his Queen (Haubrich - Orlov, Chicago 1991)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd6 5.Bd3 Ne7 6.Bg5 O-O 7.Nf6+! gxf6 8.Bxf6 Qd7?? [to stop mate perhaps Black can play 8...Bb4 9.c3 Qd5 and 10...Ng6] 9.Bxh7+ leads to mate after 9...Kxh7 10.Qh5+ Kg8 11.Qh8 mate (Blom - Jensen, Copenhagen 1938)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7 5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Nxf6+ Qxf6 8.Bg5 Bxf3 9.Qd2 Qxd4?? [9...Bxg2 10.Bxf6 Bxh1 is the right continuation] 10.Bb5+ wins the Queen (Kotkov - Akopian, USSR 1966)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Ne7 5.Bd3 g6?? [Black can play 5...Nbc6 or Nec6] 6.Nf6 mate (V. Ivanov - Martinov, Moscow 1973)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Qxd4 6.Bd3 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Nf6?? 8.Bb5+, winning the Queen (Clech - Tyrant, Val Maubuce 1989)



1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd3 c5 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Nf3 cxd4 7.a3 Qa5? [better is 7...Ba5] 8.axb4 Qxa1 9.Nxd4, threatening 10.Nb3 and trapping the Queen (Szily - Vloch, Budapest 1943)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Qg4 Ne7 6.Qxg7 Qe4+?? [Black must play 6...Rg8] 7.Kd1 now the Queen and Rook are being attacked and Black must lose one of them (Van Steenis - Wechsler, Hastings 1947)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Ne2 dxe4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Nc6 7.Qg4 Nxd4 8.Qxg7?? Nxc2+ 9.Ke2 Qd3 mate (Dake - Pauli, Baltimore 1936)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.dxc5 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Nc6 7.Qg4 Nxe5? [perhaps 7...Qa5 8.Qxg7 Qxc3+] 8.Qxg7 Qf6 9.Bh6 will eventually win the Rook (Goldenov - Nekrassov, Minks 1953)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Qd7 5.Nf3 b6 6.Bb5?? Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Qxb5 and Black wins a piece (Hieser - Shue, Australia 1996)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 (better is 4.e5) 4...dxe4 5.fxe4 Qh4+ 6.g3 Qxe4+ wins the rook (Schnabel - Cook, Dayton 1980)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 c5 7.Bxe7 Kxe7 8.dxc5 Qa5 9.Qd2 h6 10.Nxd5+, wins the Queen (Velimirovic - Ristic, Pozarevac 1995)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.c4 dxe4 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd2 Qxd4 6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.O-O-O Bxc3 8.Bg5 Bxb2+ 9.Kb1 Qb6?? [9...b5! And Black is winning] 10.Rd8 mate (Diemer - Buerger, Germany 1948)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nc6 5.Nf3 b6 6.Bb5 Qd5 7.Qe2 Nf6 8.c4 Bb4+ 9.Kf1 Qd7 10.Ne5 or 10.d5 Nxe5 11.Ne5 wins a piece (Rausis - Herboth, Baden Baden 1993)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 (the Exchange variation) 3...exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.c4 Ne7?? 6.c5 trapping the Bishop. (C. Hansen - Rodas, West Germany 1980)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.c3 Bg4 7.Bg5?? Bxf3, winning a piece (Muellen - Wagner, Germany 1990)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 h6 4.Nf3 Na6 5.Nf3 Na6 6.e5 Nh5?? 7.g4, trapping the Knight (Wall- Arau, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.Bd3 O-O 5.Nc3 Nxe4?? [normal is 5...Nc6] 6.Bxe7 Nxc3 7.Bxh7+ Kh8 8.Qh5, threatening 9.Bg6+ Kg8 10.Qh7 mate (Durao - Horta, Lisbon 1954)

1.e4 e6 2.Qf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 c6 6.Be3 Bd6 7.Nh3?? [7.Bg5 looks best] 7...Bg4 trapping the Queen (Unknown - Blaine, Indianapolis 1980)



Giuoco Piano (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5)



Giuoco Piano is Italian for the “Quiet Game.” It has been played for over 500 years and can lead to a lot of traps. For 4.b4 see Evans Gambit.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 d6 5.d4 Bb6 6.dxe5 Nxe5 7.Nxe5 dxe5 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxd8 wins the Queen (Wall - SmartAttack, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb6 7.d5 Na5 8.Bd3 c6?? 9.b4, wins the Knight (Wall - George, NC 1977)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Qe7 5.O-O d6 6.d4 Bb6 7.Bg5 f6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5!? fxg5 10.Qh5+ Kd7 11.Bxg5 Qg7?? [Black had to play 11...Nf6] 12.Be6+! Kxe6 13.Qe8+ and 14.d5 mate (Busnardo - Unknown, Rome 1590)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 Bb6 6.dxe5 Nxe4? 7.Qd5 Bxf2+ 8.Ke2 and Black must lose a piece or get checkmated (Stoklizki - Maximov, Moscow 1973 and analyzed by Greco in 1620)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb6 7.e5 Ng4 [other ideas are 7...Qe7 and 7...Ne4] 8.h3 Nh6 9.d5 Ne7 10.d6 Ng6 11.Bg5 f6 12.exf6 gxf6 13.Qe2+ Kf8 14.Bxh6 mate (Boleslavsky - Scitov, Moscow 1933)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb6 7.Ng5 O-O 8.e5 Ne8 9.Qh5 h6 10.Nxf7 wins the Queen or checkmates (D'Amore -



Aprera, Italy 1970)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 Ng4 7.Bd5 Nxf2 8.Bxf7+?! Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kg8?? [9...Ke8 and Black is winning] 10.Qb3+ d5 11.exd6+ Be6 12.Qxe6+ Kf8 13.Qf7 mate (Cochrane - Unknown, London 1822)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.Ng5 O-O 6.d3 h6 7.h4 hxg5?? 8.hxg5 Nh7 9.Qh5, threatening 10.Qxh7 mate (Greco, 1620)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 Nge7 [more normal is 4...Nf6 or 4...d6] 5.Be3 Bb6 [Black should play 5...Bxe3] 6.Nc3 d6? [6...O-O is playable as well as 6...Bxe3] 7.Ng5 Qd7 [Black could resist a little longer with 7...d5] 8.Bxf7+ Kf8 [8...Kd8 9.Ne6+ wins the Queen] 9.Be6 wins the Queen or allows White to mate with 10.Qf3 (Kottnauerova - Vilimova, Czech Republic 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.O-O d6 5.Nc3 Bg4 6.d3 [White should now play 6.h3] 6...Nd4 7.Be3 Nxf3+ 8.gxf3 Bh3 9.Re1 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Qg5+ and 11...Qg2 mate (D. Thompson - Wall, Okinawa 1972)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.O-O d6 5.d3 Bg4 6.Nc3? [6.Bg5 is a good alternative] 6...Nd4 7.Be3 Nxf3+ 8.gxf3 Bh3 9.Re1 Bxe3 10.fxe3 Qg5+ 11.Kf2 [or any other King move] 11...Qg2 mate (Unknown - Poole, England 1952)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.O-O f5?! 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 [White can also play 6.Ng5 for a good game] 6...d6 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Re1+ Nge7 9.Ng5 [threatening 10.Nf7] 9...Ne5? [9...Nd8 may be best] 10.Bf4 N7g6 11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.Nf7 forks the Queen and Rook (Morphy - Schulten, New Orleans 1857)



Grob's Opening (1.g4)



This opening was analyzed and played extensively by the Swiss master Henry Grob (1904-1974). White must avoid getting checkmated in 2 moves after 1.g4 e5 2.f3?? Qh4 mate. Several traps may arise from this opening.

1.g4 d5 2.e3 e5 3.f4?? [White should try 3.Nc3] 3...Qh4+ 4.Ke2 Bxg4+ 5.Nf3 Bxf3+ 6.Kxf3 Qh5+ wins the Queen (Unknown - Gaeta, 1987)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 c6 4.Qb3 Qc7 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Bxd5?? [6.Nc3 should be tried] 6...Qxc1+ (Lippens - Smit)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 c6 4.Qb3 Qc8 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Nc3 e6 7.Nxd5 exd5? [7...Nc6 looks better] 8.Bxd5 Be6 9.Qxb7 Bxd5 10.Qxc8+ wins the Queen (McDaniel - Ladd, Fremont, CA 1985)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.dxc6 Qxb3?? [best is 6...bxc6] 7.cxb7 Qxb7 8.Bxb7 wins the Rook (Wall - Kubasek, Thailand 1973)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 e6?? [5...Nf6 is better] 6.Qa4+ (Bloodgood - Bowlby, Virginia 1974)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 e6 4.Qb3 Nc6 [4...c6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qa4+ wins the Bishop, Van der Heiden - Van Wanrooy, Netherlands 1978] 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bxd5 Bd6 7.Bxf7+ Kf8 8.Bxg8 Rxg8 9.Qxb7 Ne5 10.d4 Ng6 11.Nc3 Kf7 12.h3 Bh5 13.Qd5+ wins the Bishop after 14.Qxh5 (Wall - Ukralex, Internet)



1997)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Qb3 Nf6 6.Qxb7 Ne4 7.Qxa8 Bc5 8.Bxe4 dxe4 9.Qxe4+ wins a piece (Wall - Puke, Internet 1996)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 Bxg4 3.c4 Nf6 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Qb3 e6?? [5...Be6 or 5...c6 are better choices] 6.Qa4+ (Lemke - Brummett, Schenectady 1977)

1.g4 d5 2.Bg2 g6 3.h4 Bxg4 4.c4 c6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 e6?? [maybe 6...Nf6 7.Qxb7 Qc8 and if 8.Qxa8?? Qxc1 mate] 7.Qa4+ wins the Bishop after 8.Qxg4 (De Vries - Broekhoeven, Eindhoven 1979)

1.g4 d5 2.g5 e5 3.c4 dxc4 4.Na3 Bxa3 5.bxa3 Qd4 6.Rb1 Qe4 wins a Rook (Nemet - Knezevic, Yugoslavia 1972)

1.g4 d5 2.g5 e5 3.c4 Be6 4.Nc3 d4? [perhaps 4...Bxg4] 5.Bxb7 dxc3 6.Bxa8 Bc5 7.Qa4+ Bd7 8.Qa5 and White remains an exchange up (Schoenau - Froka, Nuremberg 1988)

1.g4 e5 2.Bg2 Bc5 3.h3 Qh4?! 4.e3 Nf6 [Black should retreat the Queen so that it won't get trapped] 5.d4 exd4 6.exd4 Bd6 7.Nf3 traps the Queen (Bloodgood - Mizesko, 1975)

1.g4 e5 2.Bg2 d6 3.c4 Bxg4?? 4.Bxb7 wins the rook (Cunliffe - Friedlander, Pittsburgh 1986)

1.g4 e5 2.Bg2 d6 3.h3 f5 4.gxf5 Bxf5 5.Bxb7 wins the exchange (Wall - Shirley, Dayton 1981)

1.g4 e5 2.Bg2 h5 3.gxh5 d5 4.d4 e4 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Bg3 Nf6 7.Qd2 Na6 8.Nc3 c6 9.Qg5 Rxh5 10.Qxg7?? [White should play 10.Qd2] 10...Bf8 traps the Queen (Hengstler - Schlenker, Zavelstein 1976)

1.g4 Nf6 2.g5 Ng4 3.d4 Nc6?? 4.h3, trapping the Knight.



Grinfeld Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5)



This defense was invented by Austrian master Ernst Grunfeld in 1922. Black tries to gain counterplay by attacking White's center structure.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qb3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Be6 6.Qb5+ Nc6 7.Nf3 Nd5 8.e4 a6 9.Qb3 Ne3! 10.Nd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Qxd5 12.Qxb7 Qe4+ 13.Be3 Ra7 trapping the Queen (Musolino - Porreca, Postal 1965)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.Be3 Qa5 9.Qd2 Nc6 10.Rb1 cxd4 11.cxd4 O-O 12.d5?? Bc3, winning the Queen (Michailhisin - Romanishin, USSR 1981)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 Qa5 9.Rb5 Qxc3+ 10.Bd2 Qa3 11.Qc2 Nc6?? [11...c4 is best] 12.Rb3, trapping the Queen since 12...Qa4 13.Bb5 and the Queen has nowhere to go (Polovodin - Maslov, USSR 1984)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.Nxd5? Nxg5 7.Nxg5 e6 and White must lose a Knight (Zuccotti - Ricardi, Italy 1991)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.g4 Bg7 5.g5 Ne4 6.Nxd5 c6 7.Nc3 Qa5 8.Bd2 Qf5 9.f4 Bxd4 10.Bh3?? [10.e3 is best] 10...Qxh3 11.Nxh3 Bxh3 12.Nxe4 Bg2 and Black is winning (Koomen - Boomgaardt, Netherlands 1970)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.cxd5 Nxg5 6.h4 Ne4 7.Nxe4 Qxd5 8.Nc5 e5 9.Nf3 exd4 10.Qa4+ Nc6 11.Nb3?? [the Knight belongs on d3] 11...b5, trapping the Queen (Unknown - Steinberg, Postal 1976)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Nxe4 dxe4 6.g3 Bg7 7.e3 c5 8.Bg2 cxd4 9.Bxe4? [White had to play 9.exd4] 9...Qa5+, winning the Bishop after 10.Qd2 Qxg5 (Rundle - Rooswa, Tulsa 1988)



Hungarian Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7)



The Hungarian Defense took its name after a correspondence game between Paris and Pest, Hungary in 1842. It is a very conservative defense.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d4 exd4 5.c3 dxc3 6.Qd5 Nh6 [6...d6 7.Qxf7+ Kd7 8.Be6 mate Nortje - Unknown, Johannesburg 1985] 7.Bxh6 O-O 8.Bc1 Nb4 9.Qh5?? [White had to play 9.Qd1] 9...Nc2+, forking the Rook and King (Krabbe - Nieuwhuis, Amsterdam 1959 and repeated in Midjord - Scharf, Nice 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d4 exd4 5.c3 Nf6 6.e5 Ne4 7.Bd5 Ng5?? [Black should play 7...f5] 8.Nxg5 Bxg5 9.Qh5 threatens mate and wins the Bishop (Schubert - Herzog, Oostenrijk 1980 and repeated in Kontic - Hoffman, Vrnjacka Banja 1989)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Nxd4 6.Qxd4 Nf6 7.e5 c5?? [perhaps 7...d5] 8.Qf4 and Black loses the Knight or gets checkmated if the Knight moves (Funston - Sullivan, Ohio 1977)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d4 d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.d5 Nb8 7.Be2 Nxe4?? [7...O-O is normal] 8.Qa4+, winning the Knight after 9.Qxe4 (Fiorito - Terpstra, Netherlands 1990)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d4 d6 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qh5 g6 8.Qxe5 gives White an advantage (Estrin - Liberzon, Moscow 1959)



King's Gambit Accepted (1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4)



This is one of the oldest openings and the most common opening up to the 20th century. Both sides have a number of traps to set up or avoid.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 d5 4.exd5 Qh4+ 5.Kf1 f3 6.Qe1+?? [White should try 6.Bb5+] 6...Qxe1+ 7.Kxe1 fxg2, winning a Rook and regaining the Queen back (Molenda - Everett, Michigan 1973)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 d5 4.Bxd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.d3 Nxd5 7.exd5 O-O 8.Qf3 Re8+ 9.Nge2 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qh4+ 11.g3 Bg4 wins (Budzinsky - Morphy, Paris 1859)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Qh5 c6 7.Bxf4 Qe7+ 8.Qe5 [or 8.Be5 Nd7] 8...Nxf4! wins the Bishop (Ross - Wall, North Carolina 1978)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 Qh4+ 4.Kf1 Nf6 5.Nf3 Qh5 6.Qe1 b5 7.e5 Ng4 8.Qe4 c6 9.Bxb5 d5? [perhaps 9...Bb7 or 9...Qg6] 10.exd6+ and White is two pawns up (Salomon - M. Brown, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.d4 Qh4+ 4.g3 fxg3 5.Nf3 g2+ 6.Nxh4 gxh1=Q 7.Nf3 d6 wins (Neonpeon - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bg4 6.Qe2 Bxf3?? 7.Nf6 mate (Meek - Unknown, New Orleans 1855)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Nc3 Qc6?? 6.Bb5 (Wall - Akoneu, Internet 1997)



1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Be6 5.Bxe6 fxe6 6.d4 Qf6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Qe2 c6 9.e5 dxe5?? [better is 9...Qf5] 10.Ne4 Qh6 11.Nd6+ and 12.Nf7 wins (Yuneyev - Klovans, Odessa 1981)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nh6 5.O-O Be7 6.d4 g5 7.Nc3 Bd7 8.h4 f6 9.Nh2 Nc6?? [Black's best is 9...Nf7] 10.Qh5+ which leads to checkmate after 10...Kf8 11.Qxh6+ Ke8 12.Qh5+ Kf8 13.Qf7 mate (Urbano - Carrero, Madrid 1946)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Be7 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxe4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ne5+ Ke6 8.Qg4+ Kxe5 9.d4+ Kxd4?? [9...Kf6 and Black should be winning] 10.Be3+ Ke5 [10...Kxe3?? 11.O-O-O leads to mate and 10...fxe3?? 11.Qxe4+ Qc5 12.Qd5+ Kb4 13.Qb5 mate] 11.Bxf4+ Kf6 12.Bxc7 wins the Queen since 12...Qxc7 13.Nd5 forks the Queen and King (Teschner - Unknown, England 1951)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 Qxd5 7.d4 Be7 8.Bxf4?? [White should play 8.c4 or 8.Be2] 8...Qe4+ wins the Bishop (Rather - Gresser, New York 1946)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Nc3 g4 5.Nd4 Qh4+ 6.Ke2 Bc5 7.Nf5 Qf2+ 8.Kd3 Nc6 9.Qe2?? [9.Nd5 is almost forced] 9...Ne5 mate (Trimpi - Kaplan, Pennsylvania 1982)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 f6? 5.Nxg5 fxg5 6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.Qxg5+ Ke8 8.Qh5+ Ke7 9.Qe5 mate (Wall - Greenwalt, Dayton 1983)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 g4 5.Ne5 Nh6 6.Nxg4 Qh4+ 7.Nf2 d5 8.Bxd5?? Bg4 wins the Queen (Greco, 1620)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 g4 5.O-O gxf3 6.Qxf3 Qe7 7.Qc3 Bg7 8.Qxg7 Qc5+ 9.Kh1 Qxc4 10.Rxf4 Qxc2 11.Qxf7+ Kd8 12.Qf8 mate (Cage - McCoy, British Postal, 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.d4 Bg7 5.Nc3 g4 6.Nd2 Qh4+ wins (Stu - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.d4 h6 5.h4 Bg7 6.hxg5 hxg5 7.Rxh8 Bxh8 8.g3 d5 9.Nc3 [better may be 9.exd5] 9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 g4 11.Ne5 f5 and Black has an extra pawn and a strong game (Park - Dion, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ng5 h6 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Bc4+ Ke8 8.Qxg4 d6?? [8...Nf6 is best] 9.Qg6+ Ke7 10.Qf7 mate (Wall - Soltz, Texas 1995)



King's Gambit Declined (1.e4 e5 2.f4 without 2...exf4)



1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.fxe5 Qh4+ 4.Ke2 Qxe4 mate (Tchineoff - Maillard, Paris 1925)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.d4 Bb6 6.Bd3 wins a piece (Fischer - Straight, Houston 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Bc5 3.Nf3 d6 4.c3 Nf6 5.fxe5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 Nxe4 7.Qa4+ c6 8.Qxe4 wins a piece (DeJonge - Vedenina, Bratislava 1993)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Nc6 3.fxe5?? [3.d3] 3...Qh4+ 4.g3 Qxe4+ 5.Qe2 Qxh1 wins the Rook (Boldman - Jansson, 1937)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 Nc6 3.f5? [3.d3] 3...Qh4+ and White loses. If 4.g3 Qxe4+ and 5...Qxh1. If 4.Ke2 Qxe4+ and 5...Qxf5+. (Norlin - Guraj, Sweden 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 exf4 5.Bc4 Qh4 6.g3 fxe3 7.Qe2 g2+ 8.Kd1 gxe3=Q 9.Nf6+ Kd8 10.Qe8 mate (Sanders - Unknown, NY 1910)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 c6 4.Qe2 cxd5 5.Qxe5+ Be7 6.Qxg7?? Bf6 winning the Queen (Unknown - Gedult, Paris 1981)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Qe2 c6 6.Qxe5+ Be7 7.Qxg7? [a poison pawn. White is better after 7.Bc4] 7...Bf6 8.Qg3 Bh4, pinning the Queen and King (D. Evans - Wall, Guam 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qe6 5.Nf3 exf4+ 6.Kf2 Bd6?? [perhaps best is 6...Bd7] 7.Bb5+ threatening 8.Re1, pinning the Queen (Saxton - Darting, 1936)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d3 Bb4 6.Bd2 O-O 7.dxe4 Re8 8.Bd3



Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Nxe4 10.Bxe4 Rxe4+ 11.Ne2?? [11.Kf1] 11...Bg4 winning the Knight (CobaltBlue - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Bf5 6.Nxe4 Nxe4 7.d3 Qh4+ 8.g3 Qe7 9.dxe4?? [9.Bg2 had to be played] 9...Bxe4 wins the Rook (Mascotti - Gedult, France 1977)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.d3 Nf6 5.Nd2 exd3 6.Bxd3 Nxd5 7.Ne2?? [better is 7.Ne4] 7...Ne3 trapping the Queen (Bowlby - Cooledge, 1979)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.d3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Bf5 6.dxe4 Bxe4 7.Nc3 Bb4?? [a better idea may be 7...Qe7] 8.Qb5+ wins the Bishop after 9.Qxb4 (Babaev - Moskoviev, USSR 1988)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.d3 Nf6 5.dxe4 Nxe4 6.Nc3? [White should first play 6.Nf3] 6...Qh4+ 7.g3 Nxg3 8.Nf3 Qe7+ 9.Kf2 Nxh1+ and Black is up the exchange (Unknown - Olson, Boston 1979)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.d3 Nf6 5.dxe4 Nxe4 6.Nf3 Bb4+?? [the book move is 6...Bc5] 7.c3 Bc5 8.Qa4+ and winning the Knight after 9.Qxe4 (Tagnon - Jojic, Paris 1985)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.d3 Nf6 5.dxe4 Nxe4 6.Nf3 Bc5 7.Bd3 f5 8.Ne5?? [8.Bxd4 fxe4 9.Ng5 is better] 8...Qh4+ 9.g3 Nxg3 10.d6 Ne4+ 11.Kf1 Qf2 mate (Fenton - Tosato, Internet 1995)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.fxe5? Qh4+ 4.g3 Qxe4+ 5.Kf2 Bc5+ which leads to mate (Van Arkel - Welling, Netherlands 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.Nf3 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nxe5 dxe4 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.Nxf7 [perhaps 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Nxe4 is best for White] 7...Qe7 8.Nxh8 Nd4 9.Qd1 Nf3+ 10.Ke2 Bg4 and if 11.h3 N6d5, threatening 12...Nxf4 mate (Etlinger - Janowski, New York 1898)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe5 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nd5 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qh5+ and 8.Bxd5 (Rivaud - Terraz, 1991)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Qf6 5.Nc3 Qxf4 6.O-O Nge7? [6...Be6 looks best] 7.d4 Qg4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7?? [8...Kd8] 9.Nxe5+ Kg8 10.Nxg4 wins the Queen (Noy - Zurowsky, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 f6 3.fxe5 Nc6 4.d4 Be7 5.exf6 gxf6 6.Qh5+ Kf8 7.Bc4 Qe8 8.Bh6+ wins (Fischer - Jones, Detroit 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 f6 3.fxe5 fxe5?? 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Qxe5+ winning the Rook (Burk - Walthour, Dayton 1982)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 f5 3.exf5 e4 4.Qh5+ g6 5.fxg6 Nf6 6.Qe5+ Be7 7.d3 Nc6 8.Qg5 h6 9.g7 Rg8 10.Qg6 mate (Leray - De Castet, Paris 1989)



King's Indian Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7)



This is one of the most common of the Indian defenses. Very few traps arise from this solid defense.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nc6 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Ne2?? [perhaps 10.d5] 10...Nde5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 and 12...Nxd3+ gives Black an extra pawn and better position (Norman - Vidmar, Hastings 1926)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.h3 b6 7.Bd3 c5? [7...Bb7 or 7...Nc6 are playable] 8.e5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Nfd7?? [a little better may be 9...Ne8 10.Be4 Qxd1+ 11.Nxd1 Nc7] 10.Be4 winning the Rook (Wall - Gant, North Carolina 1978)

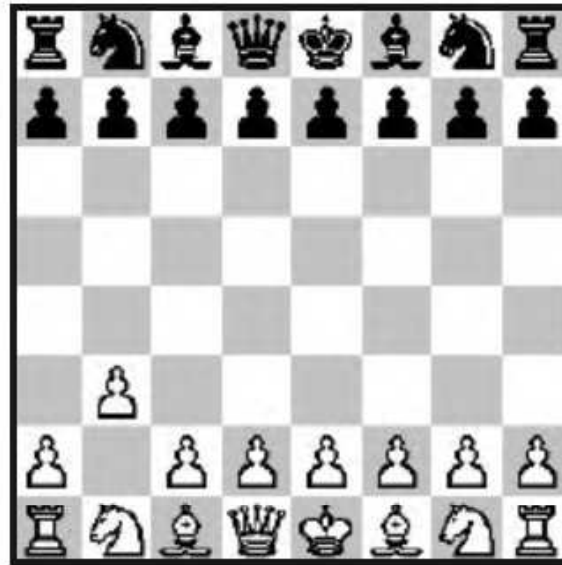
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O 6.Be3 e5 7.Qd2 c6 8.O-O-O a6? [8...Nbd7 is best] 9.dxe5 and 9...dxe5 fails to 10.Qxd8. After 9...Ne8 10.exd6 and White is two pawns up. (Feijts - Van der Heiden, Netherlands 1982)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 O-O 6.Nf3 Re8 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.e5 Ng4 9.e6 Ndf6 10.exf7+ Kxf7 11.h3 Nh6 12.g4 [threatening 13.g5 and pinning both Knights] 12...Nd7?? [the wrong Knight. Best is 12...Nhg8] 13.Ng5+ and 14.Ne6, winning the Queen (Atkins - Conde, England 1925)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bg5 O-O 6.Qd2 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Nd5 Nc6 11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.Ne2?? [White should try either 12.Rd1 or 12.Nf3] 12...Nb4 [threatening mate with 13...Nc2] 13.Rc1 Nd3+ forking King and Rook (Wittgenstein - Atkinson, Pennsylvania 1970)



Larsen's Opening (1.b3)



This opening was analyzed and played by Danish Grandmaster Bent Larsen in the 1960s and has become a respectable opening with a few traps.

1.b3 b6 2.Bb2 Bb7 3.f4 e6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.c4 Bd6 6.Ne5 Bxe5 7.Bxe5 Ng4 8.Bb2?? [perhaps 8.h4 is best to prevent the Queen from checking] 8...Bxg2! And if 9.Bxg2 Qh4+ 10.Kf1 Qf2 mate (Deiber - Delarge, Postal)

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 e6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bd6 5.e3 O-O 6.Be2 c6 7.O-O b6 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.Ng5 h6?? 10.Bxf6!, threatening the Queen and 11.Qh7 mate (Wall - Johnson, North Carolina 1975)

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.f4 g6 5.g4 Bg7 6.Be2?? [6.g5 Nh5 7.Bxg7 is better] 6...Nxg4! Threatening 7...Qh4+ 8.Kf1 Qf2 mate; if 6...Bxg4 7.Bxb2 wins the Rook (Johansen - Budde, Wuppertal 1986)

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Be2 e6 6.c4 Bd6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd5 Qa5+ 9.Qd2?? Bb4 wins the Queen (Girard - Bruneau, France 1989)

1.b3 c5 2.Bb2 f6?! 3.e4 e5 4.Bxe5 fxe5 5.Qh5+ g6 6.Qxe5+ Qe7 7.Qxh8 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Qxg2 9.Bf3 wins for White (Wall - Jennings, San Antonio 1996)

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 d6 3.f4 e5 4.fxe5 dxe5 5.Bxe5 Ng4 6.Bg3 h5 7.h3?? [better is 7.Nf3] 7...Bd6!, threatening 8...Bxg3 mate. If 8.Bxd6 Qh4+ 9.Bg3 Qxg3 mate (Shibut - Pugh, Philadelphia 1983)

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 d5 3.e3 e6 4.f4 g6 5.g4 Bg7 6.Be2 Nxg4 and if 7.Bxg7 Qh4+ 8.Kf1 Qf2 mate (Johansen - Budde, Germany 1986)



Latvian Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5)



This opening used to be called the Greco Counter Gambit until Latvian analysts revived it in the 1920s. The opening can lead to wild play.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.dxe5 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 fxe4 7.Ng5 Bf5?? [7...d5 or 7...Nc6 are better alternatives] 8.Qd5 [threatening 9.Qf7 mate] 8...Qd7 9.Qxb7 wins the Rook (Sergeant - Senneck, England 1946)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.d4 Qe7 5.O-O fxe4 6.Ng5 Nf6 7.Bf7+ Kd8 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Ne6 (Gunderam - Grava, Postal 1970)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 d5 4.Bxd5 Nf6 5.Bb3 Nxe4 6.Nxe5 Nxf2?? 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Bf7+ Ke7 9.Qg5+ wins the Queen (Robins - Anders, Postal 1970)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.d3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.Nd5 Qd8 8.Nd4 Ne7 9.Nxf6 c6?? [perhaps 9...g6 is Black's best move] 10.Nd6 mate (Kranzle - Krause, Mannheim 1939)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.d4 fxe4 4.Nxe5 d6? 5.Qh5+ Ke7?? [now 5...g6 had to be played] 6.Qf7 mate (Unknown - Cornelissen, Eindhoven 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qe7 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Nxg6 Qxe4+ 6.Kd1 Nf6 7.Qh3 hxc6 8.Qxh8 Ng4 9.Qh4?? [perhaps 9.d3 Nxf2+ 10.Kd2] 9...Ne3+, winning the Queen after 10...Qxh4 (analysis by Greco, 1620)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qe7 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Nxg6 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Nf6 7.Qf3?? [7.Qh3 maintains White's advantage after 7...gxh6 8.Qxh8] 7...hxc6 and Black is a piece up [Sitter-Wall, Internet 1997]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nf3 fxe4 6.Bg5? [White is going to be left with two pieces hanging. Better is 6.Ng5] 6...Qg6 7.Qe2 Be7 8.Bxe7 exf3 9.Qxf3 Nxe7 wins a piece for Black (Deronne - Gedult, Paris 1975)



Nimzovich Defense (1.e4 Nc6)



This defense was subjected to deep analysis by Aron Nimzovich who proclaimed it was sound. Most masters believe it is too cramped and there are a few traps associated with this defense.

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 b6 3.c3 Bb7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nh5?? [Black should play 5... Ne4] 6.g4 winning the Knight (Wall - Trogon, Dayton 1980)

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qxd4 5.Qe2 Bg4 6.f3 Bh5 7.Be3 Qb4 8.O-O-O a6? [8...Nf6] 9.Nd5 Qa5 10.Bb6! wins the Queen since 10... cxb6 11.Nc7 is checkmate (Clews - Ellison, Postal)

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Bxf3 6.Bxf3 Qxd4?? [6... Qd7] 7.Bxc6+, winning the Queen (Belmondo - Gilardi, France 1989)

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.d5 Nce7 [not 3...Nd4? 4.c3 winning the Knight, Wall - Lovegren, Dayton 1980] 4.c4 Ng6 5.Nf3 Bc5 6.Nc3 d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.b4 Nf6 9.Bg5?? [better is 9.Bd3] 9...Bxf2+! 10.Ke2 [10.Kxf2 Nxe4+ and 11...Nxe5] 10...Nxe4 threatening 11...Nxe5. If 11.Bxd8?? Nf4 mate (Siegismund - Eger, Germany 1979)

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3.dxe5 Nxe5 4.Nf3 Qf6 5.Nxe5 Qxe5 6.Bd3 Bc5 7.O-O Nf6 8.Nc3 d6 9.h3? [perhaps 9.Nd5] 9...Bxh3 10.Nd5?! Qg3! 11.Nxf6+ gxf6 12.Qf3 Qxf3 13.gxf3 Rg8+ and 14...Bxf1 wins the exchange (Bouillon - Schwab, Germany 1991)

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.d4 Bf5 6.Bb5 e6 7.Ne5 Bb4 8.Bd2 Ne7?? [8...Qb6 is best] 9.Nc4 trapping the Queen (Amberger - Sprecher, Munich 1924)

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.d5 Ne5 5.Nxe5 Bxd1 6.Bb5+ Qd7?? [Black should try 6...c6] 7.Bxd7+ Kd8 8.Nxf7+ Kxd7 9.Kxd1 and still winning the Rook (Donaldson - Unknown, 1988)



Nimzo-Indian Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4)



This is one of Black's most active and soundest defenses against the Queen Pawn.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 [3...b6 4.e4 Bb4 5.Bd3 d6?? 6.Qa4+ wins the bishop, Buchanan - Rojas, Boulder 1982] 4.Qb3 c5 5.dxc5 Nc6 6.Nf3 Ne4 7.Bd2 Nxd2 8.Nxd2 Qa5 9.O-O-O?? [better is 9.e3] 9...Nd4 10.Qa4 Bxc3 wins the Knight (Hansen - Jensen, Denmark 1945)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qb3 Qc7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Ne4 7.Qc2 d5 8.b3 c5 9.dxc5?? [time to play 9.Bb2] 9...Qf6 threatening 10...Qxa1 and 10...Qxf2 mate (Foley - Wall, Dayton 1982)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Bg5 e5 7.d5 Ne7?? [best is 7...Bxc3+] 8.Qa4+ wins the Bishop (Reggi - Ciric, Reggio Emilia 1975)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Ne2 Ba6 6.Ng3 d5?? [6...O-O is good] 7.Qa4+ wins the Bishop (Timman - Cosulich, Venice 1974)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3 c5 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Ne4 7.Qc2 Qa5 8.Nb3?? [White should play 8.Nb5] 8...Qf5 threatening 9...Qxf2+ (Van_Mil - Witt, Amsterdam)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 c5 5.e3 Qa5 6.Rc1? [6.Bxf6 should now be played] 6...Ne4 7.Nf3 Nxd4 8.Nxd4 cxd4 threatening 9...Qxd4 (Layne - Zwaig, Reykjavik 1975)



Old Indian Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6)



This opening is less common than the King's Indian (2...g6) or Nimzo-Indian (2...e6).

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.e4 g6 5.f4 c5 6.d5 Qa5 7.Bd2 Nb6?? [Black should play 7...Bg7] 8.Nb5 trapping the Queen after 8...Qa4 9.b3 or 8...Qa6 9.Nc7 (Van der Heiden - Salam, 1978)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.Nf3 c6 7.Ne4 [safer is 7.a3] 7...Nxe4 8.Bxd8 Bb4+ and after 9.Nd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Nxd2 11.Kxd2 Kxd8 Black is up a piece (Koukolik - Sykora, 1994)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 e5 4.e4 exd4 5.Qxd4 g6 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.e5 dxe5? [better is 7...Nc6] 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nd5 and if 9...Nd7 10.Rd1 threatening 11.Nxf6 and winning a piece (Sonntag - Auer, Porz 1990)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Bf5 4.f3 e5 5.dxe5 [5.e4 is also good] 5...dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.Bg5 c6 8.O-O-O+ Kc7 9.g3 Be6 10.b3 Bc5 11.Bh3? [11. Kc2 or 11.Bxf6 are better choices] 11...Bxg1 12.Rhxg1 [12.Bxe6 Bd4] 12...Bxh3 13.g4 h5 14.Rg3 hxg4 15.fxg4 Nbd7 and Black is a piece up (Visier - Tal, Palma de Mallorca 1966)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.d5 Ne5 6.Nd2?? [6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.f3 is best] 6...Nd3+, forcing 7.exd3 Bxd1 and White loses the Queen (Wehnert - Metsjkarov, Bulgaria 1970)



Owen's Defense (1.e4 b6)



This defense was frequently played by the English master John Owen (1827-1901).

1.e4 b6 2.c4 Bb7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Ne4 5.Qf3 Nxc3 6.Qxb7 Nc6 7.Qa6?? [7.bxc3 is playable] 7...Nb4, threatening the Queen and 8...Nc2 mate (Bamber - Chranowski, Postal 1986)

1.e4 b6 2.Bc4 (normal is 2.d4) 2...Bb7 3.Qf3 (threatening 4.Qxf7 mate) 3...e6 4.d4 Nc6 5.d5 Nd4 6.Qc3?? Bb4! 7.Qxb4 Nxc2+ winning the Queen (Roberts - Wall, South Carolina 1970)

1.e4 b6 2.Bc4 Bb7 3.Nf3 Bxe4 4.Ng5 Bg6? [4...d5 is best] 5.h4 f6 6.h5 (O. Smith - Bej, Philadelphia 1898)

1.e4 b6 2.d3 Bb7 3.Nc3 c5 4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.d4 Nxd4 7.Nxd4 cxd4 8.Bb5+, winning the Queen (Wenger - Cornell, Internet 1995)

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.Nge2 d5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.Nf4 c5? [perhaps 7...Be7] 8.Nxe6 Qe7 [8...fxe6 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Bxg6+ is strong] 9.Nxd5 Bxd5 10.Nc7+ and 11.Nxc5 and White is winning (Bhend - Schneiders, 1985)

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 f5 4.exf5 Bxg2 5.Qh5+ g6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.gxh7+ Nxh5 8.Bg6 mate (Greco, 1620)

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Nf6 3.e5 Ne4?? [better is 3...Nd5] 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.f3 wins the Knight (Wall - Dangermouse, Internet 1996)



Petroff's Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6)



Petroff's Defense, also called the Russian Defense, is an old defense analyzed by Alexander Petroff (1794-1867), the best Russian player of his time. There are quite a few traps from this defense.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bb5 c6 4.Bc4 Nxe4 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nxe5?? [better is 6.Qe2 d6 7.Ng5] 6...Qa5+ and 7...Qxe5 (Malloy - Powell, Internet 1995)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.exd5 Bg4 5.Be2 Bd6 6.d4 exd4 7.Qxd4 O-O 8.Bg5 h6?? [Black should try 8...Bxf3] 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Qxg4, winning a Bishop (Gross - Lien, San Francisco 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 d5 6.Bxd5 c6 7.Bxf7+, winning the Queen (Kaspereit - Paulsen, Germany 1991)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Nxe5+ Kg8 6.O-O d6 7.Qe2 [7.Qf3 dxe5?? 8.Qb3+ leads to mate, Robinson - Davie, 1916) 7...dxe5 8.Qc4+ and leads to mate (Tg - Lai, Kuala Lumpur 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Be7? 4.Nxe5 d6 5.Nxf7 Qd7 6.Nxh8, winning the rook (Dekker - Copier, Haarlem 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qe7 5.Nb5 Nxe4 6.Nxc7+ Kd8 7.Nxa8?? [White should play 7.Nd5] 7...Nc3, winning the Queen (Frank - Schiller, New York 1970)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Ne4 5.Qe2 Bb4+ 6.Kd1 Nc5 7.Bg5 d3 8.cxd3 f6 9.exf6+ Kf7 10.Ne5+ Ke6 11.Nc6+, winning the Queen (Fischer -



Chalkner, Houston 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 exd4 4.e5 Qe7 5.Be2 Ne4 6.O-O Nc6 7.Re1 b6 8.Bc4 Nc5?? [Black may want to try 8...Qb4] 9.Bg5, trapping the Queen (Muir - Johnson, Virginia 1987)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Nxe5 d5 5.Bd3 Bd6 6.f3 Qh4+ 7.g3 Nxe3 and if 8.hxe3 Qxe3+ (Hayes - Wall, Dayton 1980)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Nxe5 d5 5.Qf3 Be6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.Bxe4 dxe4 8.Qxe4 Bxe5 9.Qxb7? [White is probably better after Qxe5] 9...Bxd4 10.Qxa8?? Bd5, trapping the Queen (Pennell - Wall, North Carolina 1975)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6 4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.e5 Ne4 6.d3? [perhaps 6.Nc3 or 5.d4] 6...Bc5 7.dxe4?? [What else? If 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3 Qh4+ 9.g3 Nxe3 10.hxe3 Qxe3 wins the rook] 7...Bxf2+, winning the queen after 8.Kxf2 Qxd1 (Lowens - Stafford, Postal 1950)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Bf5 6.Nc3 Bf5? 7.Qe2, threatening 8.d3 and winning the Knight (Zapata - Anand, Biel 1988)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 Qe7 6.Be2 Bg4 7.O-O Nd7 8.Re1 O-O-O 9.Nfd2 f5? [Black should play 9...Bf5] 10.Bxg4 and if 10...gxf4 11.Nxe4 wins a piece (Revelle - Cornell, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Nc3 Qe7 6.d3 g6 7.Bg5 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bg7 9.Nd5 wins a piece (Wall - Pathfinder, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.d4 Nxe4 6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.Qe2 d5?? [perhaps 7...Ke8 8.Qxe4+ Qe7] 8.Bg5+, winning the Queen (Lazarev - Kundichev, Moscow 1982)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.d4 Nxe4 6.Qh5+ Kg8?? 7.Qd5+ Be6 8.Qxe6 mate (Hess - Born, Germany 1990)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4 4.Qe2 d5? (if 4...Nc5 5.Nc6+ wins the Queen; best is 4...Qe7) 5.d3 Ng5 6.Nc6+, winning the Queen (Wall - Ortiz, Palo Alto 1989)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4 4.Qe2 d6 5.Nxf7 Kxf7 6.Qxe4 c6 7.Qf3+ Kg8 8.d4 c5 9.Qd5+ Be6 10.Qxe6 mate (Wall - Fitz, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nxe4 4.Nxf7 Kxf7? [better is 4...Qe7 5.Nxh8 Nc3+] 5.Qh5+ Kf6 [Black could also try 5...Ke6 and 5...g6] 6.Qf3+ Ke5 7.d4+ Kxd4 8.Qf5 Qg5 9.c3+ Nxc3 10.bxc3 mate (Beaver - Adler, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Qe7 4.d4 d6 5.Nf3 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Nc6 7.Nc3 Qg6?? 8.Nh4, trapping the Queen (Yin - Zamora, Rhode Island 1996)



Philidor's Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6)



This defense was analyzed and published by Philidor in 1749. Several miniatures are associated with this defense.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Be6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 g6 6.Nxe6 fxe6 7.Bc4 e5 8.Qd5 threatens 9.Qf7 mate and 9.Qxb7 (Hagesaether - Szuveges, Germany 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.Be2 Nf6 5.O-O d5? [5...Nc6 looks best] 6.Nxe5 Bxe2 7.Qxe2 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nc6?? 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Nxf6 mate (Rimmer - Hughes, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Nxe5! Bxd1?? 7.Bxf7+ Ke7 8.Nd5 mate (Nasser - Mbye, Dubai 1986)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Ng5 Qe7 6.Bxf7+ Kd8 7.Bb3 Ke8 8.Nf7 wins (Labourey - Dubois, Paris 1989)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 g6 4.d4 Nc6 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Bxf7+ and if 7...Kxf7 8.Qxd8 wins the Queen (Wall - Italiano, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.Nc3 a6 5.Nxe5 Bxd1?? (Black should play 5...dxe5) 6.Bxf7+ Ke7 7.Nd5 mate (Wall - Perry, Tacoma, WA 1968)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.O-O Nxe4 6.Nxe5 Bxd1 7.Bxf7+ Ke7 8.Nd5 mate (Hartlaub - Worch, Bremen 1890)



1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.Nc3 g6 5.Nxe5 Bxd1?? 6.Bxf7+ Ke7 7.Nd5 mate (De Legal - St Brie, Paris 1750)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Bg4 4.O-O Nc6 5.Nc3 Nd4 6.Nxe5! Bxd1?? 7.Bxf7+ Ke8 8.Nd5 mate (Wall - Nagaru, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 c6 5.c3 Be7?? 6.Qb3, threatening 7.Bxf7+. If 6...Nh6, then 7.Bxh6 gxh6 8.Bxf7 (Ribeiro - Skinner, Internet 1995)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 c6 5.O-O Be7 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Qe2 Ngf6 8.Rd1 Qc7 9.Ng5 O-O? [9...Rf8 needs to be played] 10.Bxf7+ wins since 10...Rxf7 11.Qc4 and 12.Nxf7 wins the exchange (Fischer - Fine, New York 1963)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 Be7 5.dxe5 Nxe5 6.Nxe5 dxe5 7.Qh5 g6 8.Qxe5 and White is up a pawn and ahead in development (Karaklajic - Fuderer, Yugoslavia 1955)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.dxe5 fxe4 5.Ng5 d5 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.e6 Ng6 8.Nf7 Qf6 9.Nxh8 wins (Fischer - Chaney, Houston 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 f6 4.Bc4 Bd7 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 fxe5 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Qxe5+ Ne7 9.Qxh8 wins the Rook (Wall - Bigbluesmurf, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.dxe5 Bxf3 (4...dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nxe5 Nh6 7.Bxh6 wins, Wall - Saaboy, Internet 1996) 5.Qxf3 dxe5 6.Bc4 (threatening 7.Qxf7 mate) 6...Bb4+?? 7.c3 and winning the Bishop or mating (Wall - Clay558, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.dxe5 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 dxe5 6.Bc4 f6 7.Qb3 b6 8.Bf7+ Kd7 9.Qe6 mate (Schmid - Grund, Bonn)

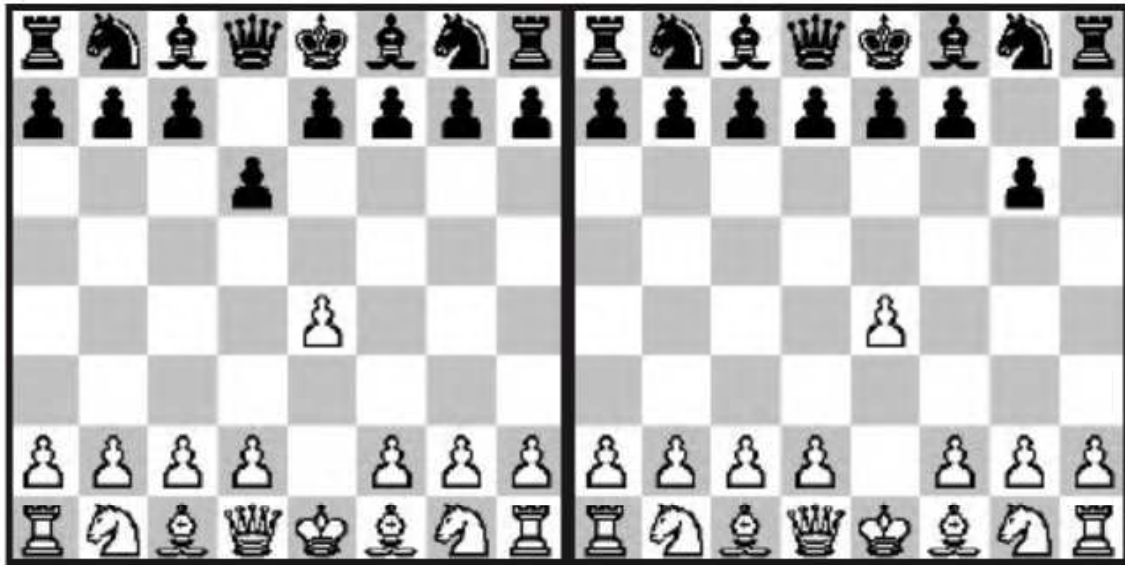
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 g6 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nxe5 and White is up a pawn (Koltanowski - Cable, San Francisco 1960)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.dxe5 Nxe4 5.exd6 Bxd6 6.Qd4 Nf6 7.Bg5 Nc6 8.Bb5 O-O 9.Bxf6 Nxd4 10.Bxd8 Nxc2+ wins (Sanchez - Delgado, Internet 1995)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.h3 Nf6 4.c3 Nxe4?? 5.Qa4+ c6 6.Qxe4 wins the Knight (Greco, 1620)



Pirc Defense (1.e4 d6 or 1.e4 g6)



The Pirc Defense was played in the late 19th century, but was revived by Yugoslav Grandmaster Vasja Pirc in the 1940s. There are several traps.

1.e4 d6 2.Bc4 Nd7 3.Nf3 g6 4.Ng5 (threatening 5.Bxf7 mate) 4...Nh6 5.Bxf7+ Nxf7 6.Ne6, winning the Queen (Dadian - Doubrava, Kiev 1896 and repeated in Cukierman - Unknown, Paris 1934)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nd7 3.Bc4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Ng5+ Kf6 (6...Kf8 7.Ne6+ wins the Queen) 7.Qf3 mate (Hamlisch - Unknown, Vienna 1992 and repeated in Tal - Streicher, Riga 1950)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nd7 3.Nf3 e5 4.Bc4 Be7? [4...c6 or 4...Nf6] 5.dxe5 dxe5?? 6.Qd5 threatening 7.Qxf7 mate. 6...Nh6 fails to 7.Bxh6 (BELLE - Van der Giessen, Netherlands 1978)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Be6?! 3.c3 Qd7 4.Bd3 Bg4 5.f3 Be6?? 6.d5 wins the Bishop (Wall - Erndog, Internet 1996)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Bc4 e5 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ng5+ Ke8 8.Ne6 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ wins the Rook (Gross - Geiger, Germany 1990)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 c5 5.dxc5 Qa5 6.cxd6 Nxe4 7.Qd5 Nc5 8.Bb5+ Bd7 9.Qxc5 wins a piece (Callow - Powell, Internet 1995)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nf3 Qe7 6.O-O g6 7.Bg5 e5 8.Nd5 wins a piece (Wall - Stonewolf, Internet 1996)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bc4 c6 5.Nf3 b5 6.Nxb5 cxb5?? [Black should try 6...d5] 7.Bd5 wins the Rook (Wall - J. Reyes, San Antonio 1993)



1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f4 Nh6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Bd3 c5 7.f5 e6 [better is 7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxf5] 8.f6 Qxf6?? 9.Bg5, trapping the Queen (Wall - Brooks, Thailand 1974)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Bc4 e5 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ng5+ Ke8 8.Ne6 wins (Gross - Geiger, Germany 1990)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Bc4 Nd7? [best is 4...Nf6] 5.Bxf7+ Kxf7?? [Black could resist better with 5...Kf8] 6.Ng5+ Kf6 7.Qf3 mate (Arnason - Pribyl, Latvia 1990)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.Nxf7+ Kf8 6.Bb3 Bf6 7.h3 Bd7 8.e5 Bg7 9.Ng5 threatening 10.Qf3+ and winning more material (Laszlo - Biro, Budapest 1940)

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nd7 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.d4 a5? [5...Nb6 or 5...Ngf6 would be better choices] 6.Ng5 [or even 6.Bxf7+ now] 6...Nh6 7.Bxf7+ Nxf7 8.Ne6, winning the Queen (Klabunde - Snyder, Denver 1983)

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c3 Nxe4?? 4.Qa4+ and 5.Qxe4 (Welling - Veugen, Utrecht 1979)

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bc4 Nd7 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Ng5+ and Black will lose the Queen or get mated (Lusgin - Joffe, Minsk 1968)

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bc4 Bg4? 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Ng5+ Ke8 6.Qxg4 Nf6?? 7.Qe6 Qd7 8.Qf7+ Kd8 9.Ne6+ Kc8 10.Nxf8 (Miannay - Brunneay, Torcy 1991)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 d6 5.Be2 Qb6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Na4 Qa5+ 8.c3 b5 wins the Knight (Hallier - Fegebank, Germany 1991)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bc4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.e5 dxe5 7.dxe5 Ng4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kg8 10.Qd5+, leading to mate (Sylvan - Flaata, Copenhagen 1994)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.c4 Bg4 5.Be2 Nc6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nxe5 dxe5 8.Bxg4 exd4 9.Bf4 h5 10.Be2?? [10.Bf3 had to be played] 10...d3 and Black threatens 11...Bxb2 (Seltzer - A. Ivanov, Philadelphia 1993)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 f5? 3.exf5 gxf5?? 4.Qh5 mate (Sternenberg - Russo, Sacramento 1993)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Bc4 Ngf6 6.e5 dxe5 7.dxe5 Nh5 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kg8 10.Qd5 Kf8 11.Qf7 mate (Cheron - Polikier, Chamonix 1927)



Polish Opening (1.b4)

This opening, also known as the Sokolsky Opening and Orangutan, has been played since the 19th century. The Polish master, Saviely Tartakower, introduced it in master play in 1924.

1.b4 c6 2.Bb2 Qb6 3.a3 a5 4.c4 e6 5.c5 Bxc5 6.Bxg7?? [better is 6.bxc5 7.Qxb2 Nc3] 6...Bxf2 mate (Brichinova - Alexandrova, Bulgaria 1979)

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 e6 3.e3 Bxb4?? 4.Bxg7 wins the rook (Brinkmann - Gerlach)

1.b4 e5 2.a4 d5 3.c4 dxc4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Qxc4 Be6 6.Qc2 Nd4 7.Qd1 Bb3 wins the Queen (Campbell - Blaine, Ohio 1982)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.f4 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.f5? Qh4+ 6.g3 Qxe4+ wins the rook (Meybohm - Grosch, Zittau 1988)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.f4 d6 4.e4 Nf6 5.Qe2 O-O 6.f5 d5 7.Bxe5? [a little better is 7.c3] 7...Re8 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.c3 Rxe4 wins the Queen (Meybohm - Kucharkowski, Germany 1988)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 Nc6 4.a3 f6 5.Nf3 g5 6.e3 h5 7.Be2 e4 8.Nxg5 fxg5 9.Bxh8 wins the rook (Wall - Carradore, San Antonio 1995)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 e4 3.c4 Nf6 4.b5 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.f3 e3 7.Qa4 Bb4 8.a3?? [White should try 8.Qc2] 8...exd2+ 9.Nxd2 Qh4+ 10.g3 (10.Kd1 Ne3+ 11.Kc1 Qe1+ 12.Qd1 Qxd1 mate) 10...Bxd2+ 11.Kxd2 Qxa4 wins the Queen (Ikes - Groncki, Berlin 1960)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 e4 3.e3 d5 4.Nc2 Bxb4?? 5.Bxg7 wins the rook (Goudreau - Summers, 1996)

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 f6 3.b5 a6 4.bxa6 bxa6 5.e3 Bc5 6.Bc4 d5 7.Bb3 d4 8.exd4 exd4 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qxc5 wins a piece (Wall - Hatherill, Dayton 1980)



Ponziani's Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3)



Named after Domenico Ponziani (1719-1796), this once-popular opening has been played less and less in favor of more active openings.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Bc5 4.d3 d6 5.b4 Bb6 6.b5 Nce7 7.c4 Bg4 8.Qe2 Bxf3 9.Qxf3?? [9.gxf3 is better] 9...Bd4, trapping the Rook (Ocoymas - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.Qa4 Qd6 5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bc4 Qe4+ 7.Kd1 Bd7?? 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxe4, winning the Queen (Komarek - Korn, Germany 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.Qa4 dxe4 5.Nxe5 Qd5 6.Nxc6 Qxc6?? [Black must play 6...bxc6] 7.Bb5 wins the Queen (Sturrell - Unknown, Boras 1956)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Ne4 6.Qe2 d5 7.exd6 Bf5?? [7...f5 is best] 8.Nbd2 Bxd6 9.Nxe4 Bxe4 10.Qxe4 and White wins a piece (Wall - Dphfrn, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 Nxe4 5.d5 Nb8 6.Nxe5 Bc5 7.Nd3 Bb6 8.Be2 d6?? [8...O-O looks correct] 9.Qa4+, winning the Knight (Kahn - Masschaele, Postal 1988)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 Nxe4 5.d5 Nb8 6.Nxe5 Qe7 7.Qd4 d6 8.Qxe4 f5 9.Bb5+ Kd8?? [9...Bd7 may be best here] 10.Bg5, threatening 11.Nf7 mate (Balabanov - Moros, Frunse 1984)



Queen's Gambit Accepted (1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4)



An old opening that really isn't a gambit and Black isn't trying to win a pawn. Both players are trying to play for free development in a rather safe opening. There are a few traps associated with the Queen's Gambit.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nc3 c5 4.e3 cxd4 5.Bxc4 dxc3?? [5...Nc6] 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Qxd8 wins the Queen (Donnelly - Pollington, England 1963)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 b5 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.Qf3 wins the Queen after 7.Qxa8 (Greco, 1620)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 4.Nc3 c6 5.b4?! [more common is 5.a4] 5...a5 6.Ba3? [perhaps 6.bxa5 is best] e6 7.Rb1 Na6 8.Ne2 Nxb4 9.Nf3 Nd3+ 10.Kd2 Bxa3 winning the Bishop (Hooker - McBride, Oregon 1974)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Bxc4 exd4 6.Qb3 Be7 7.Bxf7+ Kf8 8.Ne5 Bc8 9.Bxg8, threatening 10.Qf7 mate (Green - Varley, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 b5 4.a4 c6 5.e3 Bd7 6.Ne5 a6? [6...Be6 is playable] 7.axb5 cxb5 8.Qf3 threatening 9.Qxf7 mate and 9.Qxa8 winning the Rook (Blackburne - Fleissig, Vienna 1873)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 Bg4 5.Bxc4 e6 6.Qa4+ Nd7 7.Ne5 Bf5?? [better is 7...Nf6] 8.Nxd7 Qxd7 9.Bb5, winning the Queen (Atkins - Gunsberg, Hanover 1902)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 c6 4.e3 Be6 5.Ng5?? Qa5+ and Black wins the knight after 6...Qxg5. (Farago - Bliumberg, Budapest 1994)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qa4+ Nbd7 5.Nc3 e6 6.e4 c5 7.d5 exd5 8.e5 d4 9.Bxc4! dxc3 10.Ng5 Qe7?? [Black should try 10...Ng4 or 10...cxb2] 11.Bxf7+ Kd8 12.Ne6+ and Black must lose the Queen (Sajtar - Sliwe, Warsaw 1947)



Queen's Gambit Declined (1.d4 d5 2.c4, without 2...dxc4)



The Queen's Gambit Declined is more popular than the Queen's Gambit Accepted and leads to a more solid game. Here are a few traps with this opening.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c5 3.dxc5 Nf6 4.Nf3 [4.cxd5 looks best] 4...Nc6 5.Bg5 [again, 5.cxd5] 5...Ne4 6.Bf4 Qa5+ 7.Nbd2 Qxc5 8.Rc1?? [White had to play 8.Be3, then 9.cxd5] 8...Qxf2 mate (Grassel - Rust, Indiana 1974)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c5 3.e3 cxd4 4.cxd5 Qa5+ 5.Qd2 Qxd5 6.exd4 Nc6 7.Nf3 Bf5 [perhaps 7...Bg4 is better] 8.Nc3 Qa5 [Black could also try 8...Qe6+] 9.Bb5 e6 10.O-O Rd8 11.Ne5 Ne7?? [11...Qc7 is probably best] 12.Nd5! threatening 13.Qxa5; if 12...Qxd2 13.Nc7 mate (Denker - Chicra, Washington, D.C. 1936)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 (the Slav) 3.Nc3 e5 4.dxe5 d4 5.Ne4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Bf5?? [Black could try 7...Nd7] 8.Nd6+ Kf8 9.Nxf5. winning the Bishop (Mantia - Baird, Dayton 1987)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Ne4 5.Nxe4 dxe4 6.e3?? Qa5+, winning the Bishop after 7...Qxg5 (Pentebre - Weber, Siegen 1970)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.e3 exd4 4.exd4 Nf6 5.Bg5 Be6 6.cxd5 Bxd5 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Bxf6?? [perhaps 9.Bd2] 9...Bb4+ 10.Ke2 Qe4 mate (Unknown - Livingstone, England 1941)



1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 dxc4 4.Qxd8+ Kxd8 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Nc6 7.O-O-O Nxe5?? [7...Bxc3 is better] 8.Bg5+ Ke8 9.Rd8 mate (Katsampes - Robinson, San Antonio 1993)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.e4 Nc6 5.Ne2 Bc5 6.Nd2 Nxe5 7.Nb3?? [White should continue with 7.Nf4] 7...Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Nd3 mate (Miller - Petersons, London 1959)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.e4 Nc6 5.f4 Nxe5 6.fxe5 Qh4+ 7.Kd2 Qxe4 8.a3 Bf5 9.Nf3?? [9.Ne2 must be played] 9...Qc3 mate (Ganesan - Romo, Berkeley 1992)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 5.dxe6 dxc3 6.exf7 Ke7 (not 6...Kxf7 7.Qxd8 winning the Queen) 7.fxg8=N+! Rxd8 8.Bg5+ wins the Queen (Fidlow - Mayer, Postal 1950)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 c4 7.e4 dxe4 8.Ng5 Qxd4 9.Bf4 Bb4 10.Nxe4?? [White had to play 10.Qxd4 Nxd4 11.O-O-O] 10...Qxe4+ (Khalilbeili - Furman, Tbilisi 1956)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 h6 5.Bh4 g5 6.Bg3 Be7 7.Nb5 O-O 8.Nxc7?? Bb4+ 9.Qd2 Bxd2+, winning the Queen (Corrie - Wall, Thailand 1974)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Bf4 c5 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Bxb8?? [White should play 5.Qxd4] 5...dxc3 6.Be5 cxb2 and if 7.Bxb2 Bb4+ wins the Queen (Unknown - Bruning, USA 1907)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Bf5 3.Nc3 e6 4.Qb3 Nc6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Nxd5? [6.Qxd5 or 6.Nf3] 6...Be4 7.Nc3? [better is 7.Qe3 Qxd5 8.f3 Nxd4 9.fxe4 Nc2+ 10.Kf2 Qc5!] 7...Nxd4 8.Qa4+ b5! and if 9.Nxb5 Nc2+ (Kupel - Herrman, Germany 1970)

1d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5? [more common is 3...dxc4] 4.dxe5 Ng4 5.Nf3 Bb4 6.Bd2 Qe7 [6...Bc5 may be best] 7.Nxd5 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 Qc5 [threatening 9...Qxf2+] 9.e3 O-O? [Black could resist a little longer with 9...Be6] 10.b4 and after 10...Qc6 11.Ne7+ and 12.Nxc6, winning the Queen (Krejzick - Reti, 1922)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Qxd4?? 6.Bb5+, winning the Queen after 7.Qxd4 (Wall-Rafe, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.c3 Nf6 3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.e4 e5 6.Qa4+ Bd7 7.Qb3 exd4 8.Qxb7 dxc3 9.Qxa8 cxb2 10.Bxb2 Bb4+ 11.Ke2 Bg4+ 12.Nf3 Qd2 mate (Schubert - Tipary, Szoenor 1938)



Queen's Indian Defense (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6)



The Queen's Indian Defense is another popular Indian Defense that is solid but has a few traps.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Bb7 5.Nc3 Ne4 6.Qc2 Nxc3 7.Qxc3 Be7 8.Bf4 Bf6 9.Qd2 d6 10.e3 Nd7 11.Be2? [perhaps 11.O-O-O or 11.Bg3] g5 and if 12.Bg3 g4 13.Ng1 Bxg2, winning the Rook (Nurnberg - Rodl, Riedenburg 1947)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qc2 Bb7 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 d6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.d5 and if 9...exd5 10.cxd5 a piece will fall (Uhlmann - Andersen, Tel Aviv 1964)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 d6?? 8.Qa4+ and if 8...Nc6 9.d5, winning a piece (Friedman - Duncan, Dearborn 1992)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Nc3 Bb7 5.g3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bg2 c5 8.O-O cxd4 [better may be 8...Be7 and 9...O-O] 9.Nxd4 Be7 10.Nf5 O-O 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Bxd5 Qd7? [12...Nc6 is better] 13.Bxb7 Qxb7 14.Qd5! and if 14...Qxd5 15.Nxe7+ and 16.Nxd5; if 14...Qc7 15.Qxa8 Nc6 16.Qxc6 Qxc6 17.Nxc6+ (Berlin - Aspengren, Postal 1928)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2 Bb4 6.Qc2 d5?? 7.Qa4+ winning the Bishop on b4. (Kraidman - Harestad, Gausdal 1991)



Queen Pawn Counter Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5)



This unusual opening is rarely seen and is usually played for its novelty. A few traps have been played with this opening.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 d4 4.Nd5? c6 wins the knight (WMM - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.d3 Bg4 7.Bd2 Nd4 8.Qxe5+?? [8.Qd1 looks best] 8...Qxe5 9.Nxe5 Nxc2 mate (Abrikossowski - Parkov, Moscow 1938)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 Bd6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d4 e4 [slightly better may be 5...exd4 6.Nxd4 O-O] 6.Ne5 h6?! [6...O-O may be safer] 7.Nb5 Bxe5? [perhaps 7...a6 is a better try] 8.dxe5 Nxd5?? [if 8...Ng8 9.d6; if 8...Ng4 9.e6] 9.Qxd5 since after 9...Qxd5 10.Nxc7+ forks king and queen (Solderberg - Allen, Postal)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Qe2 Qe7 5.Nd4 Nf6 6.Qb5+ Nbd7 7.Nc3 Qe5 8.Qc4? [8.Nde2 is safer] 8...Nb6 and Black cannot hold on to its piece (Mikhailtal - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nxe5 Bd6 4.d4 f6? [Black should try 4...dxe4] 5.Qh5+ Kf8?? [5...g6 6.Nxg6 hxg6 7.Qxh8 wins the rook] 6.Qf7 (Hindley - Ramsey, 1963)



Queen's Pawn Opening (1.d4 d5, without 2.c4)



The Queen's Pawn Opening can be played in a variety of ways. Here is a look at some traps with 1.d4 d5.

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.Qe2 Nbd7 6.Qb5 Bxc2 7.Nf3 Qc8 8.Be2 a6 9.Qa5 b6 traps the Queen (Vir - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 c6 4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.e3 e5 6.Qh5 e4 7.f3 f5 8.fxe4 fxe4?? [8...dxe4] 9.Qe5+, winning the Rook (Wade - Kincel, 1962)

1.d4 d5 2.e3 e5 3.Qf3 e4 4.Qf4?? Bd6, trapping the Queen (Kusin - Warfalamejew, Rjasan 1973)

1.d4 d5 2.e3 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5+ c6 5.Ba4 a5 6.Nf3?? b5 7.Bb3 a4, winning the Bishop (J Fowler - Wall, NC 1974)

1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 Bg4 4.f3 Bh5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Qb3 b6 7.Qa4 Qd7?? [more accurate is 7...Qd6] 8.Bb5 winning the Knight (DeButts - Critchfield, Internet 1994)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 Bb4 4.Bg2 e6 5.O-O Be7 6.c3 h5 7.Ne5 Nxe5 8.dxe5 h4 9.Qa4+ wins the Bishop on g4 (Ramon - Yeo, Havana 1994)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.c4 e6 4.Qb3 b6 5.Ne5 Nf6 6.e3 Bd6 7.cxd5 Bxe5 8.dxe5 Nxd5?? [better is 8...Nfd7] 9.Qa4+, winning the Bishop after 10.Qxg4 (Tarrasch - Schwartz, Nuremberg 1890)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.c4 e6 4.Ne5 Bf5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qb3 b6?? [safer is 6...Bc8] 7.e4 Bxe4 8.Bb5+ Ke7 9.Bc6 winning the Rook since 9...Nxc6 10.Nxc6+ forks the King and Queen (Bernstein - Unknown, Berlin 1903)



Queen's Pawn Opening (1.d4 Nf6 without 2.c4)



Here is another popular variation of the Queen's Pawn Opening without playing an Indian defense with 2.c4. Several traps can arise from this opening.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 d5 5.Bg5 e5 6.Ndb5 a6?? [6...d4 is better] 7.Nxd5 axb5 8.Nxf6+ gxf6 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8 10.Bxf6+ wins the Rook (Djurhuus - Liardet, Santiago 1990)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Nf3 Bc5 5.Ne4 Bb4+ [or 5...Qe7] 6.c3 Ba5 7.h3 Nh6 8.Bg5 f6 9.exf6 and White will win material (Roesch - Ruessel, Baden Baden 1990)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nd2 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.Ngf3 Be7 5.h3?? Ne3 6.fxe3 Bh4+ 7.Nxh4 Qxh4 mate (Montjanu - Choare, Bucharest 1948 and repeated in Singers-Krabbe, 1958)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nd2 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.h3?? Ne3! (threatening the Queen) 5.fxe3 Qh4 mate. (Gibaud - Lazard, Paris 1924)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 b5 3.Bg5 Bb7 4.e3 Ne4 5.Bxb5 c6 and after the Bishop moves, Black plays 6...Nxg4 7.Nxg4 Qa5+ winning the Knight on g5 (Petrienko - Steiner, Voronets 1986)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.Bf4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Bxe5 Qa5+ and 6...Qxe5 (Halics - Lanz, Vienna 1932)



1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4? [4.Qxd4 or 4.Be5 should be played]
4...e5 5.Bxe5 Qa5+ 6.c3 Qxe5 wins a piece for the pawn (Shuler - E. Hall,
USA 1990)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.Nf3 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.Na3?! [better is 5.b4 Nc6 6.c3]
5... Bxc5 6.Nb5? [White should try 6.e3] 6...Qa5+ 7.c3?? [slightly better
is 7.Nc3, but Black can play 7...Ne4 and 8...Nxc3] 7...Qxb5, winning the
Knight (LordVader - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 (Trompovsky's move) 2...c6 3.e3?? (overlooking Black's
threat of check) 3...Qa5+ and winning the Bishop after 4...Qxg5.(Djordjevic
- Kovacevic, Bela Crka 1984) This is a common theme of checking with the
Queen, then sliding horizontally to win a piece.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.d5 [or 3.dxc5 Ne4] 3...Qb6 4.b3 [White can also play
4.Bxf6 and if 4...Qxf6 5.Nc3] 4...Ne4 5.Be3 Qb4+ 6.Bd2?? [6.c3 is best] 6...
Qd4 and Black wins the rook or threatens mate with 7...Qxf2 (Hondema -
Baljon, 1977)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Nd5 3.e4 h6 4.Bh4 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.Qf3 c6 7.Bc4 Qb6
8.b3? [White should play 8.Bxd5 cxd5 9.Qc3] 8...Qxd4 9.c3 Qxh4, winning
the Bishop (ShadowDan - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.e3 e6 4.c4 c6 5.Bd3 dxc4 6.Bxc4?? Qa5+ winning the
Bishop after 7...Qxg5 (Wall - Buchanan, Winston-Salem, NC 1976)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 c5 4.d5 Qb6 5.Nd2 Qxb2 6.Ngf3 Nc3 7.Nc4
Nxd1 8.Nxb2 Nxb2 and Black is up a piece (Wickert - Adams, Islington
1992)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.h4 d5 4.Nd2 Qd6 5.c3?? Ng3! If 6.fxg3 Qxg3 mate.
(Gant - Kauschmann, Berlin 1988)



Reti Opening (1.Nf3)



The actual Reti opening is 1.Nf3 d5 2.c4, popularized by Richard Reti (1889-1929). Here are some traps starting with 1.Nf3

1.Nf3 Nc6 (usual is 1...Nf6 or 1...d5) 2.g3 e5 3.Bg2 e4 4.Nh4 d5 5.c4 g5, trapping the Knight (Shameson - Wall, Mt View, CA 1987)

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 Bg4 5.Ne5 Bh5?? [Black should play 5...Be6] 6.Qxh5!, winning the Bishop since 6...Nxh5 7.Bxf7 is mate (Deutsch - Konikowski, Vienna 1925)

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 Bf5 4.cxd5 Nxd5? 5.e4 and if 5...Bxe4 6.Qa4+ wins the Bishop after 7.Qxe4 (Zaitsik - Zichulidze, Tiflis 1976)

1.Nf3 d5 2.d3 d4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 f5 5.e3 g6 6.d4 Bg7 7.Bc4 Nh6 8.Qb3 e6 9.Bxe6 Bxe6 10.Qxe6+ Qe7 11.Qc8+ Kf7 12.Qxb7 Nd7 13.Qd5+ wins a Rook since 13...Kf6 14.Qxa8 Rxa8 15.Nd5+ forks Queen and King (Wall - X1000, Internet 1997)

1.Nf3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Ng5 [not 3.Bb5+?? c6 and two pieces are hanging, Jecates - Wall, Internet 1996] 3...Bf5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.Ngxe4 7.Nxf6+?? [perhaps 7.Qd3] 7...gxf6 8.Qd1 Nxc2+ and if 9.Ke2 Qd3 mate (Chamness - Almgren, Santa Barbara 1956)

1.Nf3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Ng5 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bf5 5.Qe2 c6 6.Ngxe4 Nbd7?? [6.Nxe4 is correct] 7.Nd6 mate (Schroder - Blake, Brooklyn 1912)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.c4 dxc4 5.Na3 e5 6.Nxe5 Bxa3 7.bxa3 Qd4 8.Rb1 Qxe5, winning the knight (Ferrell - Wall, Dayton 1983)

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.O-O O-O 5.c4 d6 6.Nc3 e5 7.d3 Nh5 8.b4 e4, winning a piece (Kapischka - Kupreichik, Germany 1992)



Ruy Lopez (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5)



The Ruy Lopez, or Spanish Opening, is the most famous of all openings. It is mentioned in the earliest chess manuscripts and was recommended by the Spanish priest, Ruy Lopez, in 1561. The opening is rich in fascinating positions and traps.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 a5 6.a4 b4 7.d4 Bd6? [7...exd4 is better] 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Qd5 threatening mate and the Rook (Fuller - Horton, Charlotte 1979)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nd4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Nxe5+ Ke6 8.Qg4+ Kxe5 9.f4+ Kxe4?? [Black is winning after 9...Kd6] 10.Nc3 mate (Martin - Unknown, Tilburg 1980)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 a5? [Black should play 6...Be7] 7.Ng5 b4 8.Nxf7 Qe7 9.Nb5 threatening the Rook on h8 and mate with 10.Nxc7 (Wall - Lepine, Internet 1997)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 b5 5.Bb3 Nf6 6.O-O Nxe4 7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.Qh5? [better may be 8.Bd5] 8...Bd6? [Black can play 8...Qe7 and hold its extra piece] 9.d4 Nc6?? [9...Nf6 and 10...Qe7 was best] 10.Qxf7 mate (D'Agostino - Apodaca, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nge7 5.O-O b5 6.Bb3 Na5 7.Nxe5 d6?? 8.Bxf7 mate (Moura - Mansa, Portugal 1993)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Nxd4 7.Nxd4 exd4 8.e5 Ng8?? [8...Qe7 looks correct] 9.Qf3, threatening to win the Rook or



mate with 19.Qxf7 (Mantia - Duhlmeier, Cincinnati 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.O-O Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Bb3 d6 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 c5 and 11...c4, trapping the Bishop (Mueller - Petek, Germany 1993)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 Nxe4 6.d5 Ne7 7.Nxe5 b5 8.Bb3 Bb7? [better is 8...d6] 9.d6 Nxd6 10.Qxd6 wins the Knight since 10...cxd6?? 11.Bxf7 is checkmate (Capablanca - Meyer, New York 1908)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 exd4 8.Nxd4 Nc5 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Bxf7+, winning the Queen (Belanger - Boies, Charny 1989)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.d4 b5 6.Bb3 Nxd4 7.Nxd4 exd4 8.Qxd4 c5 and 9...c4, trapping the Bishop (Uhlmeier - Kreutzkamp, Germany 1989)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nxe5, Black simply plays 5...Qd4, threatening the knight at e5 and the pawn at e4.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O. If Black tries 5...Nf6, then 6.Nxe5 Bd6 7.Nc4 Nxe4 8.Qe2 Qe7 9.Re1 Nf6 10.Nxd6+! cxd6 11.Qxe7 mate (Moore - Peto, British Columbia 1980)

And after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O Nf6 6.Nxe5 Nxe4, White has the following: 7.Re1 Qd4 8.d3 Qxf2+ 9.Kh1 Nf6 10.Ng4+, winning the Queen (Wall - Flygare, Postal 1995)

Another idea for Black is 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O Bd6 6.d4 Bg4 7.dxe5. Now Black should play 7...Bxf3. If 7...Bxe5? 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nxe5 wins a piece (Bradley - Bath, Ohio 1978)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O Bd6 6.d4 Qf6 is too dangerous. After 7.Bg5 Qe6 8.dxe5 h6 9.exd6 Qxd6 10.Bh4, White is up a piece (Wall - Ellena, San Antonio 1970)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O Qd6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Bg5 f6 8.Be3 O-O-O 9.h3 h5 10.hxg4 hxg4 11.Nh2 exd4 12.Bd2 Qxh2 mate (Duncan - Wall, Dayton 1984)

After 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O, popular is 5...Bg4. Black needs to be careful. 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Bg6 8.Nxe5 Bxe4 9.Re1 Qd5 10.Nc3 Qxe5 11.Rxe4 wins (Wall - Henline, North Carolina 1977)

Instead of 6...Bh5, Black can play 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O Bg4 6.h3 h5!? White should not play 7.hxg4? (better is 7.d3) hxg4 8.Ne1 Qh4 9.f3 g3 and 10...Qh2 mate (Garner - Rowland, Arkansas 1979)



1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O Bg4 6.h3 h5 7.d3 Qf6 8.Nbd2 Ne7 9.Re1 Ng6 10.Qe2?! (better is 10.d4) 10...Bc5 11.hxg4? Nf4 12.Qd1 hxg4 13.Nb3 Qh6 wins (Gonzales - Dyke, Los Angeles 1976)

Instead of 8.Nbd2, White can also play 8.Be3. But after 8...Ne7 9.Nbd2 Ng6 10.hxg4 hxg4 11.Ng5 Nf4 12.Qxg4 Qxg5! Black wins after 13.Qf3 (13.Qxg5 Ne2 mate) 13...Qxg2+ 14.Qxg2 Ne2 mate (Bohm - Hernandez, Amsterdam 1979)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O f6. White can continue, 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 and if 7...Bc5?? 8.Qh5+ and 9.Qxc5 wins a piece (Foley - Hoffman, Ohio 1979)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.O-O f6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 c5 8.Nb3 Qxd1 9.Rxd1 Bd6 10.Na5, now 10...Bg4? is bad (better is 10...b5). After 11.f3 O-O-O 12.e5! (and not 12.fxg4? Bxh2+ 13.Kxh2 Rxd1), White wins (Hort - Zheliandinaov, Havana 1967)

If 9...Bd7 instead of 9...Bd6, then 10.Bf4 O-O-O 11.Nc3 c6 12.Na4 b5 13.Nb6+ Kb7 14.Nxd7, winning a piece (Glass - Bauer, Switzerland 1977)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.c3 d6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Kf1 Bd7 8.Qa4 Qe7 9.d5 Qxe4 10.Nc3 Qg4 11.h3 and White threatens 12.Bxc6 and 13.Qxb4, winning a piece (Ralls - Beaulieu, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 (the Bird variation) 4.Bc4 b5 5.Bxf7+ Kxf7 6.Nxd4 exd4 7.Qh5+ g6 8.Qd5+, winning the rook at a8 (Wall - Soltz, San Antonio 1994)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.c3 a6 5.Bc4 h6 6.d4 d6? [6...exd4 or 6...b5] 7.Qb3 Na5?? 8.Bxf7+ Kd7 9.Nxe5+ dxe5 10.Qe6 mate (Benko - Sawyer, New York 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.Bxc6 dxc6 6.Nxe5?? Qd4 and Black threatens 7...Qxf2 mate and 7...Qxe5, winning the knight. (Dykes - Somoza, Columbus, Ohio 1977)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bd6 6.Bg5 O-O 7.d4 Bg4 8.dxe5 Bxe5 9.Qxd8 Raxd8 10.Nxe5 Rd1 mate 0-1 (Chris Yinger - Ben Tyner, Orlando 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O Nxe4 5.Re1 f5 6.d3 Nd6 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Rxe5+ Ke7 9.Bg5 Qd7 10.Rd7+ Bxe7 11.Ne5+ wins the Queen after 12.Nxd7 (Pearsall - White, Postal 1935)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.O-O a6 5.Bxc6 bxc6 6.Nxe5 Nxe4 7.Re1 d5 8.d3 Nxf2 9.Qf3, threatening 10.Qxf7 mate and 10.Qxf2 (Wall - LonelyMonkey, Internet 1996)



Saint George's Defense (1.e4 a6)



This name came from British enthusiasts after British Grandmaster Tony Miles defeated world champion Anatoly Karpov with this defense in 1980. It is sometimes called the Baker defense.

1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.c4 bxc4 4.Bxc4 Bb7?? [Black should now play 4...e6, then Bb7] 5.Qb3, threatening mate on f7 and the Bishop on b7 (Mackowiak - Kusiak, Lublin 1980)

1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.e5 e6 4.Qf3 Nc6 5.c3 Bb7 6.Nh3? [6.Qd1 or 6.Qg4 may be better] 6...Nxd4 7.Qxb7?? [7.Qd1] 7...Nc2+ winning the Rook and the exchange (Mic - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 c5? [Black should play 4...Nf6] 5.dxc5 e6 6.O-O Bxc5 7.c4 b4 8.Bg5 f6 9.Be3 Qc7 10.Nh4 Ne7?? [better is 10...Bxe3] 11.Qh5+ g6 12.Qxc5, winning the Bishop (Wall - Ross, North Carolina 1980)

1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 e6 5.O-O c5 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 d5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Ng5 cxd4?? [perhaps 9...g6] 10.Nxe6 Qc8 [10...fxe6?? 11.Qh5+ will win the Queen or mate] 11.Nxd4 and White is up in material (Jowett - Andersen, Denmark 1991)

1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.Bd3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd5 6.a4 b4 7.Ng5 g6 8.Qf3 f5 9.Bxf5! Qc8 10.Be4 c6 11.Nxh7 or 11.Qf7+ wins further material (Ochoa - Goncalves, Seville 1994)



Scotch Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4)



The Scotch Game has been around since 1750. It got its name from a correspondence match between the London Chess Club and the Edinburgh Chess Club in Scotland. The Edinburgh players used the opening to win the match and gave the opening its name. The Scotch Opening has a lot of traps for both sides. The Goring Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4) gives up a pawn for quick development.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Bc4 Nf6 [5...Be7? 6.Qd5, Muratov - Zonov, Moscow 1985] 6.Nxc3 Bb4 7.e5 Ng4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Ng5+ Kg8?? [9...Ke8 had to be played] 10.Qd5+ Kf8 11.Qf7 mate (Casafus - Formanek, Lewisham 1981)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bb4+ [more common is 4...Nf6] 5.c3 dxc3 6.Qd5 d6?? 7.Qxf7+ Kd7 8.Be6 mate (Schachter - Grabowski, Germany 1985)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.c3 Nf6 6.b4 Bb6 7.e5 Ne4 8.b5 dxc3? [perhaps 8...Na5] 9.Qd5 Bxf2+ 10.Ke2 threatening 11.Qxf7 mate and 11.Qxe4 (Dowd - Roscher, Postal 1990)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 d6 5.c3 dxc3 6.Nxc3 Bg4 7.O-O Ne5? [Black should try 7...Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Ne5 and 9...Be7] 8.Nxe5+ Bxd1?? [8...dxe5 9.Qxg4] 9.Bxf7+ Ke7 10.Nd5 mate (Falkbeer - Unknown, Vienna 1947)



1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Be7 5.c3 dxc3? [5...Na5 is playable] 6.Qd5 threatens 7.Qxf7. If 6...Nh6, then 7.Bxh6 gxh6 8.Qxf7+ (DeVisser - Jennings, New York 1922) If 6...d6 7.Qxf7+ Kd7 8.Be6 mate (Sandrin - Reames, Chicago 1989)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nxc6 Qh4?? [simply 5...bxc6] 6.Nd4 and White is up a piece and prevents mate (Magem - G. Fernandez, Spain)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nxd4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.Bc4 Be7 7.e5 c5 8.Qf4 and if the knight moves, Qxf7 mate (Wall - Burton, Wichita Falls, Texas 1971)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nge7 5.Nc3 g6? [Black should continue with 5...Nxd4] 6.Bg5 Bg7 7.Nd5 [threatening 8.Nxc6 and 9.Bxe7] 7...Bxd4 8.Qxd4! Nxd4 9.Nf6+ Kf8 10.Bh6 mate (Hopkins - Unknown, London 1932)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Qh4 5.Nc3 Nf6 [more common is 5...Bb4] 6.Nf5 Qh5 7.Be2 Qg6 8.Nh4, trapping the Queen (Frazer - Taubenhaus, Paris 1888)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bg5 [5.Bd3?? Nxd4 Lukelau - Wall, Internet 1996] 5...Be7 6.Nf5 d5? [6...O-O looks correct] 7.exd5 [White could also play 7.Nxg7+ Kf8 8.Bh6] 7...Ne5 8.Nxe7 [better is 8.Nxg7+] 8...Qxe7 9.Bxf6?? [White should play 9.Qe2] 9...Nf3 mate (Miller - Chernev, New York 1935)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 f5 4.exf5 e4 5.Ne5 Nxe5 [perhaps Black should continue his development with 5...Nf6] 6.dxe5 d5 7.Qh5+ Ke7 8.Bg5+ Nf6 9.exf6+ (Wall - Milkman, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 f6 4.Bc4 Bb4+ 5.c3 Ba5 6.dxe5 fxe5 7.Nxe5 Nxe5?? 8.Qh5+ Nf7 (8...g6 9.Qxe5+) 9.Qxf7 mate (Jahn - Bayer, Germany 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 Nf6 4.d5 Ne7 5.Nxe5 d6 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 Qa5+ 8.Nc3 (Krumm - Mattern, Germany 1991)



Sicilian Defense (1.e4 c5)



The Sicilian Defense is one of the most popular defenses against 1.e4 played at the master level. There are a very large number of traps found on both sides of the Sicilian Defense.

1.e4 c5 2.b4 (the Wing Gambit) 2...cxb4 3.a3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.axb4?? Qe5+ winning the rook after 6...Qxa1. (Shirazi - Jack Peters, US Championship, Berkeley 1984)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 (to control the center) 3...Nf6 4.dxc5 Nxe4?? 5.Qa4+ and winning the knight after 6.Qxe4. (Suchin-Miroshishenko, Moscow 1979 and repeated in Darnstaedt - Gierden, Dortmund 1991)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bd3 c4 7.Qa4+?? b5, losing the Bishop (Wittig - Gelzenlichter, Dortmund 1987)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Bc4 Nf4 5.Qf3 Ng6?? [Black must play 5...Ne6] 6.Qxf7 mate (Correa - Barkoviyak, Internet 1996)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 g6 4.d3 Bg7 5.Be3 Nd4 6.g3?? Nf3 mate (Marjanovic - Zhivanov, Panchev 1946)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Ne2 e6 8.d3?? Qa5+ and winning the bishop (Smrcka - Engel, Postal 1968)

1.e4 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Ne2 Nf6 4.Nbc3 Nb4 5.g3?? Nd3 mate (Molinari - Bordais, 1979)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 (the Smith-Morra Gambit) 2...Na6 (Black should play 2...cxd4) 3.Bxa6 bxa6 4.dxc5 Nf6 5.e5 Ne4?? 6.Qd5, trapping the Knight. (Wall - Somarian, Internet 1996)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Qe2 Ngf6?? [perhaps 5...e6 is



best] 6.Nd6 mate (Deming - Cornell, Indiana 1980)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Bc4 g6 6.e5 dxe5?? 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qxd8, wins the Queen (Rechi - Grassi, Dubai 1986)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Bc4 Nf6 (or 5...g6 6.e5 dxe5 Bxf7+, Rechi - Grassi, Dubai 1986) 6.e5 dxe5 7.Bxf7+, winning the Queen (Zardus - Steventon, New Jersey 1986)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 d6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bc4 Nc6 7.e5 Nxe5 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.Bxf7+, winning the Queen (Kvist - Johansson, Postal 1958)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 g6 6.Bc4 Na5 7.Bxf7+ Kxf7 8.Qd4 Bg7 9.Ng5+ Kf8 10.Ne6+, wins the Queen (Kurtes - Berta, Hungary 1958)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4? b5 5.Bb3 c4, trapping the Bishop (Bleischmidt - Lytschuk, Postal 1976)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Qb6 4.Nc3 Nd4 5.Nxd4 cxd4 6.Nd5 Qd8 [perhaps 6...Qd6] 7.Qh5 a6? [slightly better is 7...Nf6] 8.Qe5 f6 9.Nc7+ Kf7 10.Qd5+ and if 10...e6 11.Nxe6 dxe6 12.Qxd8 (Smirin - Afek, Israel 1992)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.O-O Nf6 5.d3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.g4 Nxe4? [Black should just continue with 7...Bg6] 8.hxe4 Bxe4 9.Bxf7+! Kd7 [if 9...Kxf7 10.Ng5+ and 11.Qxe4] 10.Bd5 Ne5?? 11.Nxe5+ dxe5 12.Qxe4+ (Tulip - Clissold, Nottingham 1946)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 (usual is 4...Nf6) 5.Nf5 Nge7?? 6.Nd6 mate (McCrowther - McCann, Scotland 1893)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 g6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qxd8 wins the Queen (Vavrak - Mohsin, Germany 1992)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Be2 e5 8.Ndb5 Bc8? [8...Be6] 9.Nd5 Be6 10.Nbc7+, winning the Rook (P. Mecking - Sepulveda, Internet 1995) 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bc2 Nxe4?? 5.Qa4+ and 6.Qxe4, winning the knight. (Seret - Liedl, France 1992 and repeated in Werner - Zelner, St Martin 1993)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.h3 Nxe4?? [4...g6 would have been a good choice] 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.Qxe4 (Hodova - Pop, Herculan 1994)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bc4 Nc6 4.O-O e6 5.c3 Nf6 6.d4 Nxe4 7.d5 Ne7 8.dxe6 Bxe6? [8...fxe6 was called for] 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Qa4+, winning the Knight after 11.Qxe4 (Wetscherek - Erhart, Germany 1992)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 b6 4.dxc5 bxc5?? 5.Qd5, winning the rook (Michel - Iliesco, Mar del Plata 1943)



1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nc6 4.d5 Nb8 5.Ng5 h6 6.Bb5+ Nd7?! [6...Bd7 may be slightly better] 7.Ne6 fxe6?? [Black had to play 7...Qb6] 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qxg6 mate (Martin - Fernandez, Postal 1995)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.d5 Nb8 5.Ng5 h6 6.Bb5+ Nd7 7.Ne6 fxe6 8.dxe6 a6 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qxg6 mate (Martin - Fernandez, Internet 1995)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.Be3 b5 6.Qd5 wins the Rook (Veroci - Kondou, Thessaloniki 1984)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Qd2 e6 8.O-O-O Qc7 9.Bf4 Ne5? [Black should play 9...Ng4] 10.Nxe5 wins a pawn and stronger position since 10...dxe5 11.Bxe5 Qxe5?? 12.Qd8 is checkmate (Vasiukov - Yasseem, Qatar 1992)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Qb6 7.Nb3 Qh4?! [perhaps 7...Ng4] 8.Bd3 h6?! [or 8...Nc6] 9.Be3 d5?? [slightly better is 9...Ng4] 10.Bc5, trapping the Queen (Sandmer - Wimmer, Vienna 1996)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 (the Dragon variation) 6.Be3 Ng4?? 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Qxg4!, winning the knight (Rahn - Rellstab, Germany 1941)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f4 Bg7 7.e5 dxe5 8.Bb5+ Kf8 9.Ne6+, winning the Queen (Teupe - Wittig, Landau 1988 and repeated in Kolar - Riznar, Bled 1996)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 g6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7 10.Qxd8, wins the Queen (Stenner - Husfeldt, Germany 1989)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bf4 e5 6.Bxe5?? Qa5+ and wins the Bishop after 7...Qxe5 (Unknown - Pandolfini, New York 1967)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Nb3 Ne7 8.Na4 Nbc6 9.Bb6, winning the Queen (Hector - Vidarsson, Reykjavik 1996)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 f6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nf5 Nc7?? 6.Nd6 mate (Larsen - Unknown, Eindhoven 1982)

1.e4 c5 2.f4 e5 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nxe5 dxe4 5.Bc4 Nh6 6.Qe2 Bd6 [perhaps better is 6...Bf5] 7.Bb5+ Kf8 [7...Nd7 may offer more resistance] 8.Qxe4 Qc7?? [better is 8...Qe7] 9.Ng6+! threatening mate with 10.Qe8 (Ekenberg - Alfredsson, Malmo 1966)

1.e4 c5 2.f4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.Bc4 Bg4? [Black should continue his development with 5...Nc6] 6.Bxf7+! Kxf7 7.Ng5+ Ke8 8.Qxg4 Nh6 9.Qg3 Qa5 10.Nxh7 and if 10...Rhx7 11.Qxg6+ and 12.Qxh7 [Springett - Wead, Internet 1995]



Three Knights Defense

(1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3, without 3...Nf6)



The Three Knight Defense is less common than the Two Knights Defense and the Four Knight Defense, but it has a few traps of its own.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Nxe5 5.d4 Bxd4 6.Qxd4 Qf6 [6...d6 is better] 7.Nb5 Kd8 8.Qc5 Nc6?? [if 8...Nh6 9.Qxc7+ and 10.Be3] 9.Qf8 mate (Reti - Dunkelblum, Vienna 1914)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 5.Kxf2 Nxe5 6.d4 Qf6+ 7.Kg1 Nc6 8.e5 [better is 8.Nd5] 8...Nxe5 9.dxe5?? [9.Nd5 or 9.Qe1 are better choices] 9...Qb6+ and Black will checkmate the White King (Broehl - Balduan, Porz 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bc5 4.Nxe5 Bxf2+ 5.Kxf2 Qf6+? [White saves a piece. Black should just play 5...Nxe5] 6.Nf3 d6 7.Nd5 Qd8 8.d4 Be6 9.Ne3 and White remains up in material (Bojadgieva - Salazar, Malta 1980)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 g6 6.Nd5 Bg7? [better would have been 6...Nf6] 7.Nb5 Rb8 8.Ndxc7+ Kd7?? 9.Qxd6 mate (T. Christensen - B. Jacobsen, Aarhus 1991)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 f5 4.Bc4 [4.d4 is the book line] 4...fxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Bb5 [perhaps 6.Nxe5 and 7.Qh5+] 6...dxe4 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Nxe5 Qg5 9.Nxc6 Qxg2 10.Rf1 Bg4 wins the Queen (Stulz - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 f5 4.d4 fxe4 5.Nxe5 Nf6 6.Bc4 d5 7.Nxd5 Nxd5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Nxg6 Nf6 10.Bf7+ Kd7 11.Qf5+ Kd6 12.Bf4+ Ne5 13.Qxe5+ and White will win more material (D. Michaelsen - F. Michaelsen, Germany 1884)



Two Knights Defense (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6)



The Two Knights Defense is a very tricky defense with lots of traps for both White and Black. The most common trap is called the Fried Liver Attack.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 [3...f6 4.Nh4 g5?? 5.Qh5+ Ke7 6.Nf5 mate, Hartlaub - Rosenbaum, Freiburg 1892] 4.Ng5 (threatening 5.Nxf7, forking Queen and Rook) 4...d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 (the better move is 5...Na5) 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 (the only move to save the knight from 8.Bxd5) 8.Nc3. Black only two choices are 8...Ne7 or 8...Nb4.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nb4 6.d6 Nbd5 7.dxc7 Qxc7 8.Bxd5 Nxd5 9.Qf3 Be7?? [Black should play 9...Nb4] 10.Qxf7+ and 11.Qxd5 (Fedotov - Woschkat, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4 6.c3 b5 7.Bf1 Nxd5 8.cxd4 Qxg5 9.Bxb5+ Kd8 10.Qf3 Bb7 11.O-O exd4 12.Qxf7 Nf6 wins (Fischer - Burger, San Francisco 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Qf6 (7...Ke6) 8.Bxd5+ Be6 9.Bxc6 Qxf3 10.Bxf3, winning a piece (Gilmore - Bringer, Dayton 1982)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.d4 f6 7.dxe5 Nxe5 8.Bxd5 fxg5 9.O-O Bd7 10.Re1 Qf6 11.Qh5+ Qg6 12.Rxe5+, wins a piece (Fischer - Kuhn, Chicago 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Nd5? 5.Nxf7 Kxf7 6.Bxd5+ Ke8 7.O-O [or 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Qh5+ and 9.Qxe5] 7...Bc5 8.Nc3 [again, 8.Bxc6 is good]



- 8...Nd4 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Qxe5+ and 11.Qxh8+ (Hryniw - Taggert, Postal 1995)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Nxe4 5.Nxf7 Qf6 6.Nxh8?? [White should just castle] Qxf2 mate (O'Brien - LauerSmith, 1995)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 f6? (Black should stick with 3...Nf6 or 3...Bc5, the Giuoco Piano) 4.Nh4 g5?? 5.Qh5+ Ke7 6.Nf5 mate (Hartlaub - Rosenbaum, Frieberg 1892)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nh6 4.d4 Bd6 5.Bg5 f6 6.Bxh6 gxh6 7.Nxe5 fxe5 8.Qh5+ Kf8 9.Qf7 mate (Wall - Kerazag, Internet 1996)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.O-O Bg4 7.Re1 f6 8.Nxe5! if 8...Bxd1 9.Nxc6+ and 10.Nxd8 (Armas - Hartung, Dortmund 1988)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 Nxe4 5.dxe5 Bc5?? 6.Qd5, threatening 7.Qxf7 mate (Snyder - Ellis, Los Angeles 1972)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Nxe4 5.Nxf7 Qf6 6.Nxh8?? Qxf2 mate (O'Brien - LauerSmith, Europe 1995)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Nxe4 (Dubious. Best is 4...d5. Also playable is 4...Bc5) 5.Bxf7+ Ke7 6.Nxe4 (better may be 6.d4) 6...Kxf7 7.Qf3 Kg8?? (7...Ke8) 8.Ng5 (threatening mate with 9.Qf7 or 9.Qd5) 8...Qe8 9.Qd5+ Qf7 10.Qxf7 mate (Wall - Bubar, Tacoma 1968)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4 4.Nxe5 Qg5 5.Nxf7 Qxg2 6.Rf1 Qxe4+ 7.Be2 Nf3 mate (Muhlock - Kostics, Cologne 1912)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 (the Trexler variation) 5.Nxf7 (or 5.Bxf7+) 5...Bxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 7.Kg1 Qh4 8.Nxh8?? Qf2 mate (Yam - Wall, Internet 1996)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 7.Ke1 Qh4+ 8.g3 Nxc3 9.Rf1 Nh1+ 10.Ke2 Qe4 mate (Werner - Kutzner, Germany 1993)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 7.Ke3 Qh4 8.Qf3 Nf6 9.Ke2? [9.Nxh8 Qxc4 or 9...Ng4+] Qxc4+ 10.Kd1 Nd4 and Black will win the Knight on f7 (Jentzsch - Nosotta, Postal 1956)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6.Kf1 Qe7 7.Nxh8 d5 8.Bxd5 Bg4 wins (Crowley - Wall, Internet 1996)
- 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5 5.Bxf7+ Ke7 6.Bc4 Rf8 7.Be2 [better may be 7.Qe2] 7...Bxf2+ 8.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 9.Ke1 [9.Kg1 Nxc5] 9...Nf2 10.Nxh7 Nxd1 11.Nxf8 Qxf8 and Black is winning (Matula - Leisebein, Postal 1988)



Vienna Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Nc3)



The Vienna Opening is less popular than 2.Nf3, but can be very trappy.

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.Na4 Bxf2+ 4.Kxf2 Qh4+ 5.Ke3 Qf4+ 6.Kd3 d5 7.Qf3?? [7.Qe1 is better] 7...dxe4+ and if 8.Qxe4 Bf5 wins the Queen (Plath - Reichel, Postal)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.Bc4 Ne7 4.d3 Nbc6 5.Qh5 O-O 6.Bg5 Qe8 7.Nd5 Bb6? [best may be 7...Nxd5] 8.Nf6+ gxf6 9.Bxf6 and White will eventually checkmate Black (Alekhine - De Cossio, San Sebastian 1944)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.f4 Bxg1 4.Rxg1 d6 5.Bc4 Qh4+ 6.g3 Qxh2 7.Kf1 Bh3+ (Eissing - Draeger, Germany 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d3 Bb4 6.O-O?? Bxc3 7.bxc3 Nxb5 (Megatron - Wall, Internet 1996)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Na5?! 4.Bxf7+ Ke7 [4...Kxf7 5.Qh5+ and White gets a good attack] 5.Bxg8 Rxg8 6.Nd5+ Kd6 7.d4, threatening 8.dxe5+. If 7...exd4 8.Bf4+ with a strong attack (Keizer - Kroes, Postal 1991)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nd5 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ Qxf6 6.d3?? Qxf2 mate



(Carwell - Kirshner, Dublin 1992)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4 Qf6 5.Nd5 Qxf2+ 6.Kd1 Na5?? [6... Kf8] 7.Nh3, trapping the Queen (Vukovic - Emmel, Hamburg 1979)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4 Qf6 5.Nd5 Qxf2+ 6.Kd1 Kd8 [6... Kf8] 7.Nh3 d6? [Black had to play 7...Qd4] 8.Nxf2 Bxg4+ 9.Nxg4 and White is a piece up (Reichel - Knorr, Germany)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4 Qf6 5.Nd5 Qxf2+ 6.Kd1 Kf8 7.Nh3 Qd4 8.d3 Bb6 9.Rf1 f6 10.Nxf6! Nxf6 11.Bh6 gxh6 12.Rxf6+ Ke8 13.Qg7 and White will win the rook and the game (Brooks - Crous, South Africa 1946)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qg4 Qf6 5.Nd5 Qxf2+ 6.Kd1 Kf8 7.Nh3 Qd4 8.d3 Nf6 9.Qf3 Nxd5?? [perhaps 9...Be7 10.Nxc7 Rb8 is best] 10.c3, trapping the Queen (Glasscoe - Wall, Sunnyvale, CA 1985)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.f4 exf4 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.O-O Ne5 7.Nxe5 Bxd1?? [7...dxe5 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.Qxg4] 8.Bxf7+ Ke7 9.Nd5 mate (Luttles - Miller, USA 1964)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.Bc4 Bg4 6.fxe5 Nxe5 7.Nxe5 Bxd1?? 8.Bxf7 Ke7 9.Nd5 mate (Pillsbury - Fernandez, Havana 1900)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 exf4 4.Bc4 Qh4+ 5.Kf1 Bc5 6.g3? [White's best move is 6.Qe1] 6...fxg3 7.Nf3 g2+ 8.Kxg2 Qf2+ 9.Kh3 d5 mate (Kolbe - Rotenstein, Berlin 1921)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 exf4 4.d4 Qh4+ 5.Ke2 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Bxf4 f5 8.Kd3 Qe7 9.Qd2?? [White should play 9.exf5] 9...fxe4+ 10.Nxe4 Bf5 and if 11.Re1 Nf6 and 12...d5 (Bluemich - Svenson, Postal 1910)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Bc5 4.Bg2 h5 5.Nf3 h4 6.Nxe5? [better is 6.Nxh4] 6...Nxe5 7.d4 h3 8.Bxh3 Bxd4 9.Bg2 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 d6 and Black is a piece up (Hauwert - Welling, Netherlands 1986)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Ne7 3.Nd5 Rg8 4.Bc4 g6?? 5.Nf6 mate (Bukavec - Koziskova, Kostelec 1950)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 f5 3.Bc4 fxe4?? 4.Qh5+ g6 5.Qxe5+ Qe7 6.Qxh8 wins (Wall - Hatfield, Guam 1974)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Nxe4 d5 5.Bb3 dxe4 6.Qh5 Qe7 7.Ne2?? [White should play 7.Bd5] 7...g6, trapping the Queen (Papoushek - Lutsar, Prague 1987)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Nxe4 d5 5.Bxd5 Qxd5 6.d3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Bg6 8.Nf6! gxf6 9.Qxd5, winning the Queen (Brunel - Kong, Paris 1989)



1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.Nxe4 Nc6 6.Qf3+ Kg8 7.Ng5 Qe7 8.Qd5+ wins the Queen (Imbusch - Goring, Munich 1899 and repeated in Kutjanin - Jacobiuk, Moscow 1940)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nd5 g6? [7...Be7 and 8...O-O is good for Black] 8.Qe2+ Be7 9.Nf6+ Kf8 10.Bh6 mate (Bass - Armstrong, USA 1952)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f3 Nh5 4.d4 Qh4+ 5.g3 Nxg3 and if 6.hxg3 Qxh1, winning the Rook (Lovegren - Wall, Dayton 1980)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.d4?! [book moves are 4.fxe5 and 4.exd5] Bb4 5.fxe5 Nxe4 6.Bd2 Qh4+ 7.Ke2 Qf2+ 8.Kd3 Bf5, threatening 9...Nc5 mate (Ninov - Nathan, 1902)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.Nxe4 Nd4? [simply 7...dxe4 8.Qxe4 Qd7] 8.Qd3 Bxf3 9.Ng3 and Black loses a piece (Wessman - Becx, Reykjavik 1990)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Qf3 Nc6 6.Nxe4 Nd4 7.Qd3? [safer is 7.Qd1 or 7.Qc3] 7...dxe4 8.Qc3 [8.Qc4 b5] 8...Bb4 9.Qc4 [not 9.Qxb4?? Nc2+, winning the Queen] 9...Be6, trapping the Queen (Neureiter - Reinle, Germany)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 [perhaps 5...Nb6] 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ng5+ Kg6?? [7...Kg8 8.Ne6 Qe8 9.Nxc7] 8.f5+ Kxg5 9.d3+ Kh4 10.Qf3 and 11.Qh3 mate (Kadisch - Unknown, Mannheim 1931)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 exf4 4.e5 Qe7 5.Qe2 Ng8 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.d4 d6? [7...Qb4 looks playable] 8.Nd5 Qd8 9.Nxc7+ wins since 9...Qxc7 fails to 10.exd6+, winning the Queen (Wurzbürger - Peifer, Paris 1933)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 exf4 4.e5 Qe7 5.Qe2 Ng8 6.Nf3 d6? [6...c6 or 6...Qd8] 7.Nd5 Qd7 8.exd6+ Kd8 9.dxc7+ wins the Queen (Krejčík - Kraus, 1952)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nd5 Ne7?? 4.Nf6 mate (Reinle - Neureiter, Germany)



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